

# LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND MASS MEDIA: A VIABLE TOOL FOR VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

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## **Abstract**

*Education is believed to be an instrument for national development and social change. Education is vital for the promotion of progressive and united region or a nation at large. Education, maximize the creative potentials and skills of the individual for viable vocabulary, for self fulfillment and general development of the society. Its viability is relevant to the needs of the learner and the larger society which is culminated by mass media. This paper therefore looks into the meaning of education, meaning of mass media viable vocabulary, sustainable democracy, language education and the concept of peace. It discusses on the development of education and its viability. The potentials of mass media are relevant in democratic context as they are an enabler for more awareness and participation. Vocabulary can be referred to the totality of word stock that can be found in a language which a speaker uses. Democracy is the government of the people by the people and for the people. Peace is a societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. The paper concludes with recommendations.*

**Keywords:** Education, Language Education, Viable Vocabulary, Mass Media, Sustainable Democracy and Peace.

Education is the aggregate of all the process by which a child, or young and adult develops the abilities, attitudes and other forms of behavior of positive values to the society in which he lives. Education is a great tool of positive social change. It gives training to adaptability in young ones so to enable them to move with the changing world. Education is never static and that is why we say education is viable. Its viability cannot be overemphasized. Viable means able to move forward, maintain an independence life, capable of growth and development, economically, politically and socially able to be independence of ideas, positions, theories and sound, workable if translated into action. The viability of education maximizes the creativity of new vocabularies and skills which the mass media support to culminate, (Aminu et al 2015).

The mass media content are produced by specialized agencies according to pre-defined schedule of daily actuality with a national or linguistic community. The mass media have an enormous impact. Mass media have become so important that we can

rarely live without them. We listen to the happenings in the area of the world. Thereby we get new vocabularies, thinking and ideas on how to live with one another. We also learn how to rule ourselves by ourselves with peace and harmony. And also teach one another to be competent in our languages at all times and how democracy can be sustained with peace and adequate vocabulary.

### **Meaning of Education**

The first and second criteria of the meaning of education by Tuemi, (2016) are:

1. Education means the transmission of what is worthwhile to those who become committed to it
2. Education must involve knowledge and understanding and some sort of cognitive perspective which is not inert. The first and second criteria are emphasis on the link between the theory and practice of what has been learnt. It means to know is to do. Tuemi (2016) sees education as a living thing. The ideas, facts, skills, knowledge, beliefs and attitudes imbedded in the process of schooling must be lived or acted out to qualify the person as having acquired that level of education. The second criterion is related to the first and demands the wise application of what is learnt in solving problems and overcoming challenge faced by the schooled. There is an additional implication in the meaning of education in the second criterion and what is that, the educated must not only now faces but must also know the reasons of why of the facts. This demands knowing how the facts-came about, for example, a student who knows that  $H_2+O$  given  $H_2O$  (water) is above expected to know how this chemical process took place. This process and others must be finally used to solve man's problems and change his uncomfortable situations. An education process that could not develop in the skills, ideas and knowledge to feed themselves and solve their problems in a dead one and such process could be referred to as mal-education, (Tuemi 2016).

### **Concept of Language Education and Language**

Language education is the teaching and learning of languages whether indigenous, foreign or second language. It is a branch of applied linguistics. Increasing globalization has created a large need for people in the work force who can communicate in multiple languages, making it very important and needful in fostering human connection and dissemination of information in such institutions. The uses of common languages are in areas such as trade, tourism, international relations, technology, media and science, (Ogunremi, 2015:108). Language education may take place as a general school subject or in a specialized language school. Languages have fallen into relative obscurity while others are widely used; still others have a small following but offer useful insights. Language education can be fostered through various methods, approaches and techniques. Some of the techniques are online and self-study courses (hundreds of languages are available for self-study from scores of publishers), audio recording and books (language books have been published for countries teaching

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vocabulary and grammar, giving exercises, translation and writing, internet and software).

Charles-Zalakoro, (2020) sees language as man's greatest endowment which enables man to communicate with one another as passed on the age-long heritage from generations. The possession of the power of manipulating language to suit one's different purpose confers on one ability to put into many aspects of life where the delicate, accurate and the flowery use of language may be needed, (Grace and Kenneth, 2012).

In the present day society that is been gradually overtaken by urbanization, the search for those whose oral and written skills overflow is gradually gathering momentum. Thus, those who have those skills are offered rich employment opportunities and avenues for wealth creation and self reliance through opening up of private language clinics. In the education enterprise the discipline that has mandate of inculcating these skills among students is language education. What then is language Education? Language education refers to the study of the art of language. It involves the study of the nature and importance of language, the theories and process of language developing language skills, the techniques of developing the language skills and deeper understanding of practical approaches, competence and problems in the language acquisition process, (Charles-Zalakoro, 2020). Grace and Kenneth (2012) also aver that language education provides the learner with deeper understanding of the science of language and equip the individual with the skills for achieving greater proficiency in manipulating the language art. In universities language education, French education and Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa education are not offered as courses. These entire language education programs are housed in the department of arts education of university, (Lendzemo 2001).

### **Meaning of Mass Media**

Mass media can be defined as technologies designed to store and distribute information. Mass media could be singled out regarding the meaning produced and the audience receiving them. Regarding the meanings, mass media contents are produced by specialized agencies according to a pre-determined schedule of daily actually within a national or linguistic community. Mass media have a programme; they pre-package contents and distribute them according to some substantive region. Charles-Zalakoro (2021) citing Beloved (2004) had argued that the technical requirements and possibilities of mass media themselves together with the give language delineate the boundaries of their use so that in principle they are available for each member of nation or language community rather than for socially circumscribed groups only (they are media for masses of people). Beloved (2018) stated that modern societies have only three mass media (daily), newspaper (including periodicals) dated back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, radio, originating in the 1920s and television taking the lead in the 1950s, the internet, a technical platform, which is primarily used for personal communication and for personal services, but can also be used in order to distribute the three above mass media, (Charles-

Zalakoro, 2021). Crosbie (2007) stated that mass media refers to channels of communication that involves transmitting information in some way, shape or form to large number of people, even though the question of exactly how many a large number of the qualified as mass in something is generally left undefined.

Dutton et al (2000) suggests that mass media, a mass medium such as television, in general classified as 'one-to many' communication "one" person such as the author of the book, the creators of a television programme or a film director, communicate to many people (the audience) 'at the same time in a way that it is largely impersonal; that is the communication is one way, in the sense that those communicating the message to an audience don't receive simultaneous feedback from that audience.

### **Importance of Mass media in English language Teaching and Learning.**

English Language vocabulary development is easy nowadays because a learner may learn from online sources. According to Irfan, et al (2016) there is online blogs which are available on World Wide Web (WWW) and thus, the English learners get help while sharing information. Similarly, plumtum and Wang (2010) also highlighted this idea when they opined that due to their online blogs and social media sources, the visitors send messages and also give comments on learners. There are online communities which are helpful for English Language learning and Vocabulary development. Social media enable the user to share their views with others and make social relation with other users. Irfam et al (2016) highlighted that online blogs like social media is greatly supported by constructivist approach as their user underscore learner interaction. Ferding (2007) and Charles-Zalakoro et al (2021) also stated the importance of mass media adding that it is full interaction and interaction in English learning process which are necessary and quit helpfully(Mutum et al(2010).

An effective teaching of English language needs an effective method of teaching new words and ideas. It has been observed that to teach something effectively, requires teaching it in a systematic and logical way so as to make situation favorable for the learners. The communicative language teaching in this regard is the best method of teaching English language. Thus, if the teacher uses method or approach of teaching that is not in tune with the level of understanding of the second language learners than the second language acquisition may not be organize in language classrooms for the better understanding of language learners, (Charles-Zalakoro and Susan 2021).

Mass media tools such as newspapers, the radio and their services to educational purposes, they perfectly fulfill different types of learner's needs. They encourage student to learn as well as providing a form of entertainment. These tools make learning more appealing because students may find something of their interest in teaching materials. Also, by watching English news on television (TV) series and reading newspapers, a student can learn the culture of English Language; However, the most important advantage of teaching second or foreign language through mass media is the contact with authentic language. In spite of this, there are however, also disadvantages of its use (that

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is the mass media as a means of teaching). Firstly, there is no curriculum. Consequently, the whole class preparation is in teacher's hands. Secondly, mass media tools do not always explain rules of the language usage, which course looks specifically prepare for this purpose by experts in these areas do. Again there is also no opportunity for question and answer sessions. Learners do not have access to teachers for explanation in case students or learners have difficulty. For those who prefer deductive ways of learning, studying only with mass media might turn out to be problematic. Also, it is not always possible to find a reliable source appropriate to learner's level of understanding even though it promotes pronunciations. Using newspapers, brochures, job application forms and new broadcasts, therefore, provide authentic opportunities for students to learn using real-world media. This method simulates real life experience in which students must read, evaluate and interpret information based on items that they need in their daily lives. When students use object from real world, they can see the knowledge as a member of the society (Charles-Zalakoro, 2021).

Beloved (2018) had asserted that using mass media in the class teaches students how to use and care for resources to further their education. Students not only learn how to use the internet, dictionary or newspaper for information but they also learn how to care for and protect the item they use. Learners also through this means do learn how to determine the value of media and learn methods to contribute to society's development producing their own media, (Charles-Zalakoro, 2021).

**Media influence is Persuasive and Erosive**

Media today have an enormous impact. They have become so important that we care rarely live without them. Every morning we may wake with the radio music at the background or we play a tape while having shower or while dressing up, someone may run to the PC or the laptop to check the mail or the news. On the way to work or school we may grab newspaper and have a look at the headlines. At school we may go to the library and consult a lot of books and magazines for other research projects. At home we may watch television for a while, each of these experiences put us in contact with the medium or channel of communication. Radio, books records and tapes, newspapers, magazines, movies, television, on-line media, news media, all these are called media of all these are called media of information, they reach many people at online at the same time. In the years to come, media of information would become more persuasive. Understanding them and their influence will be crucial for the development of the society. Despite the criticism of the mass media, most thoughtful persons agree that mass media do a superior job of informing the public. It is the task of the teachers to help students and pupils to understand and process information got from these media, transmit it to the up-coming generations and try to use it for educational purpose.

Mass media according to Vilna (2009), provides student with a lot of language practice through activities using newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, movies, books, internet and so on which develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. They

also provide students with lots of inside and outside classroom activities promoting extensive reading by giving the students the confidence and the ability to continue their reading outside the classroom, above all they enhance motivation. Media keeps us informed about what is happening in the world, they extend our knowledge and deeper understanding.

### **Viable Vocabulary**

In every ramification, education is viable. Its viability cannot be overemphasized. Viable means able to maintain an independent life, capable of growth and development, economically politically or socially able to be independent of ideas, positions, theories, sound, workable if translated into action (-able to live). Education has survived successfully in every area of life endeavors.

Education is believed to be an instrument for national development and social change. Its viability maximizes the creative potentials of new vocabularies and skills of the individuals for self fulfillment and general development of the society. Vocabulary, roughly, can be referred to as the words in the language. It means the totality of the words stock that can be found in a language which a speaker uses. Often, the term is used to include terms that are more than a single word: for example, father-in-law and post of Multi-word expressions which express a single concept and are stored in the memory as a chunk, such as: in any case, call it a day, bye etc form part of the vocabulary.

Grammatical items such as pronouns –he/she, determines-the, some, prepositions-of, in etc. are sometimes considered to include the vocabulary of a language. Grammatical words are functional words are said to belong to the “closed class” while lexical words belong to the “open class”, open class admits new words and are therefore inclusive. Grammatical words are however not admissible, hence, they do not add to its lists. From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the concept of “Vocabulary” is “fussy”, hence it is referred to as “vocabulary items”, “lexical items” or “words” in the language.

Though fluid, scholars have identified types of vocabulary, namely receptive and productive vocabularies, (Isaac, 2014) Receptive vocabulary refers to the ability one has to recognize or understand individual words, while productive vocabulary means to produce or use them. Both refer to a person’s overall lexicon. In their separate estimates, scholars Melka, (2011) Ur, (2012) Zacher et al, (2001) have shown clearly that in the case of Li learner, the receptive vocabulary is double that of productive vocabulary. Isaac (2014) citing Morgan (1930) reports conclude that receptive vocabulary develops fast at first, but that later, the relatively slow development of productive vocabulary is partly compensated for as it partially catches up. There is also abundance of expression which are used to describe the above notions as shown below.

RECEPTIVE  
VOCABULARY

PRODUCTIVE  
VOCABULARY

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Passive Vocabulary	Active Vocabulary
Comprehension Vocabulary	Productive Vocabulary
Understanding Vocabulary	Speaking Vocabulary
Recognition Vocabulary	Actual/Possible Vocabulary

**Sustainable Democracy**

Democracy involves a social process which means people-centered system of rule. Abraham Lincoln in Christian (2019), sees democracy as rule of the people by the people for the people. The rule of the people means that the people are supreme and sovereignty resides in the people always. Christiana (2019) defines democracy as a system for arriving at a political decision in which individuals acquire the power to decide by means of a competitive struggle for the people's vote". Christiana (2019) further defines democracy as a government of the people by the people and for the people. Aikhio nbare (2002) opines that freedom and democracy are often used interchangeable, but the two are not synonymous. Democracy is a set of ideas and principles about freedom, but also consists of a set of practices and procedures that have been molded through a long time in history. In fact it is the institutionalization of freedom. Democratic governance refers to features that make democracy work. This includes conditions for democratic rules such as social quality, wider spread participation, uninformed citizenry, justice and fair play. It is on this foundation of freedom, justice and social quality that democracy can be enhanced. Then can people be sustained and be ready to defend democracy as they can see a reflection of their hopes in all structure of democracy, (Awoyele 2007). The impact of moral decadence has brought a lot of set-back to people and democracy in Nigeria. Christiana (2019) maintains that only the leaders and followers that are morally upright, sound and decent will shun corruption, election rigging, religious bigotry, favoritism, selfishness, cultural ethnocentrism and all other forms of undemocratic behaviors. Christiana (2019) agree with Orakwe (2007) that a lot of politicians in Nigeria seem to shy away from basic moral commitment and this is why public morality as an epitome of good governance is often abandoned.

As far as the pursuit of democracy is concerned, there are certain ingredients of politics that defy space, time and culture. The instinct to be free, to have privacy, to live in peace with one's neighbor, to have a just and fairness and so on must be built in us to have a just and egalitarian society. Based on this statement, Nigerians leaders and followers should as a matter of viable education, democracy and people foster national

and economic advancement of her people and the country at large for sustainable democracy.

### **Concept of Peace**

The concept of peace has been perceived by various individuals who clearly explained the concept as freedom from disturbance, tranquility. Peace is defined as the absence of violence, (Rakiya, 2019). Of course the usefulness and validity of the definition of violence in everything which presents the full realization of innate somatic and mental human potentials. To put it in a little different way, violence in anything which provide a gap between the physical and mental conditions? Rakiya (2019:21) from this perspective of violence, poverty, under development, oppression and other social ills afflicting billion of people largely in developing countries can be seen as manifestations of violence and our perspective, their elimination should be viewed as importance.

### **Peace value or necessary conditions of peace**

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence in a social sense. Peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear and violence individual and heterogeneous relatively foreign or district groups. Therefore, peace is when people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the quality of their lives, peace is considered when:

1. Every one lives in safety, without fear, threat of violence and no form of violence is tolerated in law or in practice.
2. Everyone is equal before the law, the systems for justice are trusted and fair, and effective laws protect people's right.
3. Everyone is able to participate in shaping political decisions and the government is accountable to the people
4. Everyone has fair and equal access to the basic needs for their wellbeing such as food, clean water, shelter, education, health care and decent environment.
5. Everyone has an equal opportunity to work and make a living regardless of gender ethnicity or any other aspect of identify

For viable education to continue with sustainable democracy, peace and unity in Nigeria, proper and adequate vocabularies must be used to enlighten and educate from the basic level to tertiary level.

### **Conclusions**

The linkage between democracy, the Nigeria educational system and their viable language education should ideally be rooted in the allocation resources to the education sector of development of the right type of values, attitudes, skills, intellectual, social and economic competences as equipment for individuals to nation building. Education on the other hand, in that which enables students to acquire necessary skills to live full functional and satisfying life within the society, while language education refers to the

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learning second language. Similarly viable vocabulary in language education emphasizes arming the learners with effective oral and written communicative skills.

Viable means to able to maintain and independent life, capable of growing and development. If a nation is capable of developing independently, there is the tendency of developing peace, sustainable democracy and unity.

**Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made

1. Since education is the key to successful development, the federal, state and local government should ensure that it's viable enough for her citizens to be self-reliant.
2. There should be an orientation for those wanting to occupy positions, to know what democracy stands for and not to enrich themselves and their followers.
3. Teachers should encourage their students to read wide in order to understand most vocabularies used in the mass media.
4. The importance of reading should be made known to students by their teachers.
5. Teachers and the general public should be encouraged to listen to radios, read newspapers and magazines to be aware of what is happening in their local government area, state, nation and the world.
6. Computer education should be made compulsory at all levels of education in Nigeria.

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