# TERM CREATION, A PREREQUISITE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF NIGERIAN LANGUAGES: THE IGBO LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

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#### **Abstract**

Nigerian languages are still in their developmental stages. Development can only be made possible through creation of terms to reflect the realities of our day in any given indigenous language and any given domain. Terminological activities are thus necessary tools in the advancement and development of these languages. We decided to create terms in the area of Economics in the Igbo language. Compiling a list of about 80 terms on the New Economy in the English Language, we tried to look for the Igbo equivalents of these terms. It was not easy to get informants who are native speakers from whom we can get the equivalents of terms in the domain of New Economy hence we decided to create the terms. This paper thus focuses on the creation of Igbo terms in the New Economy and the methodology of creation. It further highlights the importance of terminological development in the Igbo Language as a veritable tool in the development of the language. We will equally discuss the possibility of implantation of the terms created.

Key words: Terminology, New Economy, term creation, implantation

# 1.0. Introduction

To the best of our knowledge, no terms have been created in the Igbo language in the New Economy. Okeogu (1998: 110) citing Okafor (1995: 5) opines that for any language to develop, it constantly needs to "increase its literary and communicative capacities in the world of realities" through lexical enrichment or otherwise face the risk of dying out. Nigeria is forging ahead to develop technologically and scientifically. For the development to be useful, indigenous languages need to be developed through term creation especially in the scientific and technical domains to reflect the realities in this 21st century.

Our area of study is not common so an explanation of what the New Economy is becomes necessary. The New Economy according to Wikepedia (assessed on line), "is the result of the transition from a manufacturing based economy to a service-based economy". As a result of the New Economy, a lot of investments were made in the sector of technology. Business leaders claimed that "old laws of economics did not apply anymore and the new laws had replaced the old ones". This is because of the claim that improvement in computer, hardware and software would dramatically change the future, since information/communication have the most important value in the New Economy.

Korten (2010) (assessed on line), is of the opinion that the old Economy is that of greed when he says "The old Economy of greed and dominion is dying. Anew Economy of life and partnership is struggling to be born". According to him the New Economy recognizes humans as living inhabitants of a living Earth and that they are creative, conscious and living in strong healthy

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communities. Families are made up of strong and healthy people that make up the foundation of human happiness and well-being. Economy has no other legitimate purpose than to serve life, all life, including the entire world's people. He then calls for a radical reinvention of our defining economic culture and institutions to create a New Economy that serves all the people all the time.

The New Economy's areas of work range from:

- Business, Innovation & Science
- Planning, Housing & Environment
- Research, Evaluation & Cost Benefit Analysis
- Skills & Employment
- Stategy (<a href="http://www.neweconomymanchester.com/about-us/about-new-economy">http://www.neweconomymanchester.com/about-us/about-new-economy</a>)

"The New economy is commonly believed to have started in the late 1990s, as high tech tools, such as the internet, and increasingly powerful computers, began penetrating the consumer and business marketplace". (<a href="http://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/neweconomy.asp">http://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/neweconomy.asp</a>)

Having talked about the New Economy, we agree with Okeogu (2012: 86) that "each language has the stylistic and lexical capabilities to respond to the communication needs of its speakers." We believe that the Igbo language is capable of creating terms in the New Economy.

Nigeria's indigenous languages can be enriched through creation of terms. Jibir-Daura (2014) (assessed on line), is of the same opinion when he stated that:

Indigenous languages can be made richer by finding ways of including new science and technology terms in the language. (...). Technological and scientific terms should be translated into the various languages to make teaching and learning easier.

This goes to prove that when terms are created in the indigenous languages, we show that our languages have the means to explain scientific terms.

### 2.0. National Policy on Education

The first edition of Nigeria's National Policy on Education (NPF) was in 1977, since then other revised editions have appeared: 1981, 1998, 2004, 2007, and 2013. The 2004 edition emphasizes the importance of Nigerian languages as a means of preserving the culture of our people as well as for national unity and development. The new editions appear because it is believed that educational developments have taken place and such developments need to be incorporated, but implementation is always not carried out. This goes to confirm what Ajulo (2000: 222) stated:

A document specifically called "Language Policy for Nigeria" has not emerged. However, given the fact that the country has witnessed an endless wave of launching of National Policies on different aspects of governmental business, there is every reason to surmise that one day a "National Language Policy" is to be formulated and launched. (...) In the final analysis, the "National Language Policy" might emerge as a codification of the existing linguistic practices, usages and conventions adopted in accordance with provisions of those documents.

It goes without saying that Nigeria tries to progressively create language policies to help development in Science and Technology. The said development can only be attained if terms are created in these areas to enable indigenes know the names of objects in their mother tongue and not

only in the English language. This is one of the reasons why we decided to create terms in the area of New Economy.

# 3.0. Methodology

Our methodology of term creation is based on Socioterminology which "is the study of terminology within the real use of language in a specific social context" (Okeogu 2015: 92). Gaudin (2003: 154), defines Socioterminology as a "sociolinguistic conception" of the discipline which is directed towards the study of terms in relationship with the contexts in which they appear. Terms are thus studied in their linguistic, pragmatic, social and historical contexts. Socioterminology "is, in fact, a sociolinguistic approach to terminology that takes into account the analysis of terms (emergence, formation, consolidation and relationships), considering them from a linguistic perspective in a social interaction" (Okeogu 2015: *ibid*).

To collect the necessary information for our study, a documentary research became necessary. We consulted dictionaries and encyclopedias relating to New Economy from where we extracted terms relating to New Economy in the bid to look for their equivalents. We equally searched the Internet. The list compiled, we searched for their meanings in the Dictionaries and Encyclopedias. We were not able to do a field work because the area is not well known in the Igbo language judging from the few attempts we made and could not get any favourable results. We could not also get the equivalents to these terms in Igbo since no known glossary or work exists in Igbo. We then decided to create the terms based on the collection from our documentary research. Since no known glossary of New Economy exists in the Igbo language, we therefore made enquiries from some Igbo linguists. The linguists interviewed include Dr. Bright Nnabuihe of the University of Lagos, Dr. Zebulon Iwuala of National Institute of Nigerian Languages, Dr. Ogbonna Anyanwu of University of Uyo and Dr. Ijeoma Iloene of University of Nigeria.

### 4.0. Criteria for selecting and accepting terms

The criteria on which the selection of terms were based on are semantic, morphologic and syntactic.

#### 4.1. Semantic

For a term to be accepted, it has to indicate a scientific or technical notion or concept belonging to the domain under study. For this to be possible, collaboration with specialists is necessary. Since no known specialist in the domain of New Economy was around, we relied on the linguists for the confirmation of the meanings of the terms created. This criterion also helps to differentiate words from terms. A term is only valuable if it represents concepts in the domain in question Audet (1994: 24) and we adhered to the semantic criteria in our acceptance of terms.

# 4.2. Morphologic

The form of the term can suggest its meaning: free market = ahia oha n'eze. The term has to be brief and simple: one price = otu onuahia but it is not always easy to respect the criterion of a term being brief and simple thus: nethead = ndi n'aga n'igwe ntaneti. This term as we see is an explanation.

# 4.3. Syntactic

We were careful of the rules of syntactic combination for a given word or words to be a term. Following this rule we accepted Big Bang, data mining, feedback, shrinkage etc. as terms.

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Our objectives in creating terms is to contribute in the maintenance or support of the National Policy in Education and to contribute in making scientific terms available in the Igbo language. We support Alberts when she gives the objectives of term creation as follows:

[...] implementation and maintenance of national policy and strategies concerning technical languages in order to promote scientific and technical communication in all [...] Language communities [...] to standardize technical and scientific concepts and definitions and to provide equivalents [...] in all the official languages and different domains – from grassroots level up to the highest tertiary level (Alberts, 1998: 10).

By creating terms in the Igbo language, we identify the language as belonging to a distinct cultural group distinguished from other languages and at the same time, we uphold the Igbo language as one of the indigenous languages in Nigeria.

# 5.0. Criteria for creating terms

While proposing the new terms, we took into cognizance the cultural dimension in terminology as proposed by Diki-Kidiri (2008) and Edema (2008). To Diki-Kidiri, creating terms in African languages should be carried out in such a way that the experiences and knowledge of the terminologist should permit him/her to be able to name any new concept. As a result, Edema sees cultural motivation as being a product of the sum total of individual and collective memory in its continuity. Motivation permits the native speaker of a language to try to give names to objects. The cultural dimension helps in the understanding of technical languages of developing languages. The cultural dimension applied to the Igbo language favours naming things metaphorically and also through composition.

Dubuc (1980) outlined two techniques in term creation: Direct (derivation, affixation, composition) and indirect formation (borrowing, hybridization, semantic extension (metaphorisation). Each technique must respect the rules of the language. In our work we made use of composition and borrowing which was either wholesome, phonologised or hybridization.

Term-formation varies between languages to some degree because of grammatical differences and preference for certain methods. While compounding or composition seems to be common to all languages, the methods by which words are combined vary. Noun + noun combinations are much less common in the Romance languages than in the Germanic. The French 'noun +  $\grave{a}$ + verb' construction (e.g., *machine à écrire*) has no morphological equivalent in English or German; the formation of nouns by combining a verb with a noun is no longer productive in English (nouns like *scarecrow* and *pickpocket* are no longer constructed) as it is in French and Spanish (e.g., *brise-vent*, *casse-mottes*; *portaaviones*, *rompeolas*, *tocadiscos*); French and Spanish have no adjective-participle construction paralleling the English *slow-running*. In Igbo nouns can be combined with verbs or other parts of speech as will be seen in the next heading.

### 5.1. Lexical Composition

In composition, each term can be composed with two or more words put together to form a term. The composition can belong to the same grammatical class for example:

N+N: aha + njirimara = aha njirimara (brand) or to different grammatical class:

V+N+V+N: ihazi + iwu + ji + onuahia = ihazi iwu ji onuahia (deregulation),

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N + N+ N: ochichi + mgbochi + nsogbu = ochichimgbochinsogbu (adhocracy), N + N: isiego + ahia = isiegoahia (capital).
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The composition can be hybrid. It can be English + Igbo or Igbo + English that is to say that each language supplies part of the name given to a term either before or after for example: sistemu ego bekee = EMS, njemileniomu = millennium bug, Chaos theory = atutu keChaos, Moore's law = iwu keMoore, - data mining = jchunta data.

It could be observed that the English words in the hybrids are phonologised or igbonised. The composition is said to be syntagmatic if the term constitutes more than three or four words joined together:  $mgbazinve\ nchekwa\ ego\ n'esighi\ n'uloaku$  (securitization).

# 5.2. Borrowing

All languages borrow Edema (2008: 94). As Stroberski puts it,

[...] the development of a language depends not only on its own inner laws, as in the case with an individual, a family and a nation, but on external influences, contacts, and on adapting foreign words as well (Stroberski 1987: 94).

The borrowed words undergo changes morphologicaly, semantically or phonologically. We had some borrowings. Only very few are wholesome borrowing for example WIPO, WTO, Smith Adams, PC. Other borrowings were igbonised:

- electronic = eletroniki
- bandwidth = bandwiti,
- -capitalism = kapitalizmu
- Microsoft = Mikrosofutu
- monopoly = monopoli
- narrowcast = narokastu
- Netscape = Netskepu (ke komputa)

### 6.0. Implantation of new terms

The notion of implantation of terms is delicate and it varies from place to place. The terminologist should identify the users of terms proposed and if possible work with them. There is no doubt that the vocabulary of the New Economy is of interest not only to Economists but to all who would want the Igbo language to advance towards development and to be acceptable in the international arena. For the terms to be implanted, resources such as reference materials (lexique, glossary, and dictionary), education materials (manuals etc.), press articles etc. need to be involved. In a country like ours, where communication is limited, to reach a large number of people, the radio and television are necessary tools of implantation (Diki-Kidiri 2007: 2).

Another means of implantation is teaching. In this case the speakers of the language can be trained in schools following the various disciplines and specialty each speaker is studying to enable he or she impart knowledge learned to others (Diki-Kidiri 2008: 129).

Terms and the Igbo equivalents proposed

English terms	Igbo equivalent	Definition as proposed by the Encyclopedia and Dictionary
	proposed	
adhocracy	ochichi mgbochi nsogbu	Management that responds to urgent problems rather than planning to
,		avoid them
bandwidth	Bandwiti	The range of frequency over which a receiver or amplifier should not
		differ appreciably from its maximum value
Big Bang	mmalite ahja mba uwa	Advent of world financial market. (Ref. The major modernization that
		took place on the London Stock Exchange on October 27 1986, after
		which the distinction between jobbers and brokers was abolished and
		operations became fully computerized.
bionomics	atutu oganihu ndi oru na	A theory that establishes a parallel between the behavior of individuals
	ulo oru	and enterprises and their adaptation to technological progress that is
		analogue to evolution and considers the economy as an ecosystem.
brand	aha njirimara	A trade name or mark
capital	isiego/okpurukpuego ahia	Material wealth owned by an individual or business enterprise
capitalism	kapitalizmu/	An economic system based on the private ownership of the means of
1	ndaberenaego	production, distribution and exchange, characterized by the freedom
	3	of capitalists to operate or manage their property for profit in
		competitive conditions.
Chaos theory	atutu keChaos	Theory of prediction applied to economy, that apparently random
		phenomena having underlying order.
churn	mgbafu ndi ahja	Progressive loss of clients, rate of loss of clients
community	ndi ji igwe Ntaneti aru oru	The totality of people using the Internet, or part of the users
(virtual)		
complexity	atutu mgbagwojuanya	A theory inspired from ecology but applied to economy that explains
theory	aring ingeng wymany a	complex systems for interrelation to their components.
convergence	nchikota nkanuzu	The combining of different forms of electronic technology, such as
convergence	neningta mangze	data processing and word processing converging into information
		processing especially the web
coopetition	mmeko ulo oru ndi na aso	Collaboration between competing companies (firms).
	mpi	
data mining	ichunta azumahia	Ability to extract and combine disparate facts from various sources in
8		order to get useful information on market and the customers.
decentralisation	nkewasi usoro oru	To reorganize an industry into smaller more autonomous units as a
		result of an economy based information.
deflation	odida onuahia	A reduction in the level of total spending and economic activity
	\$ -\$\$	resulting in lower levels of output, employment, investment, trade,
		profits and prices.
deregulation	įhazi iwu ji onuahia	Removal of regulations or controls form imposed by the State to
8		liberalize the economy.
diseconomies of	nwepu otutu azumahia	Disadvantage, such as lower efficiency or higher average costs,
scale	I op & Ardrik andriminia	resulting from the scale on which an enterprise produces goods or
		services.
disintermediation	mwepu iheakaebe n'	The elimination of such financial intermediaries as banks and brokers
disintermediation		
	i ilioania	i in transactions between brincipals, often as a result of deregulation
	uloahia	
		in transactions between principals, often as a result of deregulation and the use of computers.  Applying the principle of division of labour to economy
distributed	usoro nkesasį orų	
distributed system	usoro nkesasį orų	and the use of computers.  Applying the principle of division of labour to economy
distributed	usoro nkesasi oru Iji igwe latrikikwuo ugwo	and the use of computers.
distributed system e-cash	usoro nkesasi oru  Iji igwe latrikikwuo ugwo / okwukwu ugwo-e	and the use of computers.  Applying the principle of division of labour to economy  Electronic payment used for little amount.
distributed system	usoro nkesasi oru Iji igwe latrikikwuo ugwo	and the use of computers.  Applying the principle of division of labour to economy  Electronic payment used for little amount.  European monetary system whereby in 1993 crisis, despite the effort
distributed system e-cash	usoro nkesasi oru  Iji igwe latrikikwuo ugwo / okwukwu ugwo-e	and the use of computers.  Applying the principle of division of labour to economy  Electronic payment used for little amount.

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Geography	Jiografi (mmeko ndi	Geography is here included because direct human contact is important
	mmadu n'ibe ha)	and explains places of preference despite possibility of increase in
	•	communication
globalisation	ozuruuwaonu	The process enabling financial and investment markets to operate
		internationally, largely as a result of deregulation and improved
		communications. (explanation)
information food-	chenu ozi	A process through which given information becomes information
chain	chena ozi	71 process through which given information occomes information
information	mgbasa ozi kenkanuzu	Technology comprising computers, software and the network that
technology	mgoasa ozi kenkanaza	connects them
information	atutumgbasa ozi	A theory that is based on statistics, concerned with methods of coding,
theory	atutungoasa ozi	transmitting, storing, retrieving, and decoding information.
innovation	nchoputa ohuru	New Economy closely depends on its ability to be innovative, hence
innovation	nchoputa ohuru /mgbanwe	
		innovation is included in the list.
intangible assets	iheonwunwe keanahughi	Intellectual property, such as a copyright or patent brand, research
	anya	results, know-how.
intellectual	nhakota amamihe keulo	The sum total of the knowledge of an enterprise.
capital	oru	
intellectual	iheonwunwe keamamihe	An intangible asset such as copyright or patent brand.
property		
just in time	ozuzu n'oru	Professional training ie in-service training
learning		
knowledge	nchikota amamihe	The technique of managing knowledge. This is inherent to the new
management		economy.
knowledgeable	onye oru nwere amamihe	A worker who applies his technical know-how to his work
worker		(competences)
lock in	mmechibido	Technical constraint that hinders progress. For example; windows 98
		(Aless reliable soft ware well established to be changed.
free market	ahia oha n'eze	An economic system that allows supply and demand to regulate prices,
		rather than government policy.
mass	nhazi ngwa ahia ka ndi	Preparation or adaptation of products according to a customer's
customization	ahịa si chọọ	individual requirements.
microfinance	nchekwa obere ego	Provision of funds at a lower level./ Little quantity
microprocessor	igwe nhàziozi	A single integrated circuit performing unit in a small computer. It is
inicroprocessor	igwe iniaziozi	relevant in New Economy where it helps process and stock
		information
Microsoft	Mikrosoftu (nke	Relevant to New Economy in the sense that the PC is the most known
WHEIOSOIL	komputa)	technique.
Millennium bug	nje mileniomu	Any software problem arising from the change in date at the start of
Willieminum bug	nje mneniomu	the 21st Century. This necessitate an expensive intervention on most
	.1	of the computers to enable them take the year 2000 into account.
mindshare	nhazi inweta ndi ahia	A commercial technique which aims at capturing the attention of
		potential customers.
monopoly	monopoli	Exclusive control of the market supply of a product or service by a
		manufacturer.
Moore's Law	iwu keMoore	The principle by which the power of a microprocessor doubles every
		18 months.
narrowcast	1 .	To supply (of programmers or advertisers) to a specialized audience
narroweast	narokastụ	
narroweast	narokastų	on radio or television.
net head	ndi na-aga n'igwe ntaneti	
		on radio or television.  Web communication participants
net head	ndi na-aga n'igwe ntaneti	on radio or television.  Web communication participants  A new software that permits communication through Web and is
net head Netscape	ndi na-aga n'igwe ntaneti Netskepu kekomputa	on radio or television.  Web communication participants  A new software that permits communication through Web and is inherent to the New economy.
net head	ndi na-aga n'igwe ntaneti	on radio or television.  Web communication participants  A new software that permits communication through Web and is

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one price	mkpebionuahia/	An economic principle that wants prize par product for a perfect
1	nkwekorita onuahia	market.
open system	sistemu gheoghe	A system whereby many actors can participate. The web is an example
		of open system.
outsourcing	nnyefe oru	To subcontract (work) to another company
PC	PC (komputa)	Relates to new economy in the sense that the PC permits its opening
photonics	Fotoniksi	The study and design of devices and systems, such as optical fibers,
		that depend on the transmission, modulation, or amplification of
	1. 1	streams of photons.
privatization	azumahia kennoduru	Transferring (the production of goods or services) from the public
1	onwe	sector of an economy into private ownership and operation.
productivity	ahịa uru n'adighị	Observing that data processing investment is not rapidly translated in
paradox restructuring	nhazighari	forms of productivity gains.  Organizing (a system, business etc.) in a different way.
securitization	mgbazinye nchekwaego	The use of such securities as Eurobonds to enable investors to lend
Securitization	n'esighi n'uloaku	directly to borrowers with a minimum of risk but without using banks
	ii esigiii ii uiqaku	as intermediaries.
shrinkage	ntalata obaoru	Decrease in size of an enterprise as a result of New Economy.
Smith, Adam	Smith, Adam (Nwoke a	Father and advocate of free trade and private enterprise. He opposed
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	bụ nna nke azụm ahịa ọha	state interference and as such indirectly inspired the New Economy
	n'eze)	
standard	ukpuru nhazi izugbe	An open norm that can be exploited with the aim of enhancing
		productivity.
supply chain	usoro mbuga ahia	A channel of distribution beginning with the supplier of materials or
		components, extending through a manufacturing process to the
		distributor and retailer, and ultimately to the consumer.
technology	nkanụzụ	It applies to today's technology which is defined in relation to
		communication and no more in relation to production.
time zone	ndiiche n'oge	Time difference
tipping point	mgbasa ngwa ahia	The moment when success is inevitable, where a functioning product
trading limit	njedebe azumahia	is spread everywhere.  Opening time of the Stock Exchange to function permanently and not
trading iiiiit	njedebe azumanja	to have trading limits.
transparency	nzimozi anaghi enyoenyo	Transparency permits flow of information in the New Economy.
ubiquity	ino ebe obula	The ability to be everywhere at once.
WIPO	WIPO (Otu mba uwa	World Intellectual Property Organization
WILO	maka amamihe na ihe	World Interfectual Froperty Organization
	onwunwe).	
work	ogwugwu oru	A situation where the authors of Encyclopedias predict the end of
disappearance		work due to technological renovations.
WTO	WTO (Otu mba uwa	World Trade Organization. The organization is in charge of rules
	maka azum ahia)	regulating trade between countries.
zero sum	nkwusi otuto aku na uba	The theory through which L. Thurow (1980) predicted the end of
		economic growth. He recommended that countries should distribute
		their resources equally.

# 7.0. Conclusion and Recommendation

According to Franquesa (2001:16):

Language and knowledge work together and support each other mutually. Knowledge is constructed and extended and with this, language is constantly kept up to date and is able to indicate new concepts in all domains and all sectors of activity (our translation).

The Igbo language can become internationally valuable and attractive to the world at large when terms are created in areas of interest especially in this era of information technology. We are of the opinion that assessing scientific and technological knowledge in Nigerian languages enables us to be self-reliant thereby contributing meaningfully to national development. This can only be achieved through the usage of Nigerian languages in the creation of terms in various domains.

We believe that this work will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the domain of New Economy and to terminology of the Igbo language in general. The bilingual lexical terms from this work will facilitate translation of documents in the New Economy into Igbo. We have by explanation given the meaning of the terms in English. We hope that our reflection will arouse terminological interest in this domain since no known work in Igbo can be cited in this area.

We highly recommend that NINLAN should establish a Centre for Translation and Terminological Studies as obtained in some universities abroad, for example *UniversitéLumièreLyon11*, *France*. They can equally link up with the university's Centre there by further advancing the Igbo language to the outside world. The Centre, if operative, will serve as a research Centre for the study of terminology in Nigerian languages.

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# Webology:

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