

ROAD SIGN TERMS: THE IGBO TERMS AS A PARADIGM

By

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Abstract

Whenever and wherever specialized information and knowledge are created, communicated, recorded, processed, stored, transformed or re-used, terminology is involved in one way or another. Terminology is the study of terms and their use. Terms are words and compound words that are used in specific context. Terms serve as a basic for the increment in the number of tools for the identification, extraction, ordering, transfer, storage and maintenance of terminological information and other types of knowledge. It was observed that the Igbo language as one of the Nigerian Indigenous languages does not have indigenous equivalent terms for every concept and symbols probably because some of these new concepts are not of Igbo cultural background. In view of the above statement, terminological creation and documentation is an area that is still yawning for more research works. For this reason, this paper has attempts to create road sign terms in the Igbo language. It also looks at the extent technical terms have gone in the Igbo language.

Introduction

Nigeria with a minimum of 300 languages has developed at least three officially recognized languages, namely: Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba. What then remains to be pursued more vigorously is the appropriate modernization of these languages. (Ukeje 1997:4), elucidating on language modernization, views it as “the development of new vocabularies or terminologies. This state in language development is imperative for the survival of any language”.

Scientific discoveries are taking place every day with the emergence of new scientific and technical concepts in the world’s leading languages such as English and French languages. With African’s relationship with these Western powers, there is the need to be at home with the use of every foreign concept we come in contact with. Foreign concepts refer to those cultures and their means of expression which have found their way into the Nigerian social environment, initially through colonization and imposition of foreign cultures and subsequently through normal international relations of co-operation and trade.

Igbo Technical Terms: How far?

A lot of efforts and researches have been made for the advancement of technical and scientific terms in Igbo language. The society for Promoting Igbo Language and Culture (SPILC) constituted an Igbo standardization committee to collate terms in Igbo so that our people may know these terms and feel at home using them. The committee’s effort in developing technical terms in Igbo held water with the publication of *Okasusu Igbo*. Vol. 1-5 of 1990.

As revealed in Emenanjo (1993:149) the National Language Centre (NLC) and NERDC have made substantial contribution towards term development in Igbo through the following projects:

- The Primary Science Terminology Project (NLC 1977-1987)

- The Legislative Terminology project (NLC 1980-1990)
- The Metalanguage Project (NERDC 1981-1990)
- The various Curriculum Projects for primary, JSS, SSTC

These projects have brought in no fewer than 20,000 words into the lexicon of standard Igbo. This has helped to a certain extent, but cannot take appropriate care of the ever increasing demand of equivalent Igbo terms in this new technological and scientific age.

Ezeuko, (1994) shows that out of 63 prose texts, 30 drama texts and about 27 poetry texts written in Igbo language, none is purely on sci-tech. domain. Actually there is no text to portray the Igbo man's cultural view on these occupations and trades such as: Pot making, basket making, Blacksmith, wine tapping to mention but a few. All these trades have specific terms for discussing them. There is no other way terms in these areas could be highlighted except through usage and written literature.

It is necessary to point out, that if the indigenous languages are fully developed, they will be fully utilized in Nigeria's educational policy, technological education and industrialization. It is also the contention of many scholars that Nigeria's economic development will be greatly enhanced if the indigenous languages are fully used in the areas of science and technology. We are more or less saying that using a language helps in sustaining its lifewire and for us to sustain our language "Igbo" we have to re-echo all technical terms of our local crafts and occupation.

At this point, the role of texts to humanity will not cease to be emphasized in providing information and education.

Texts on our local crafts and occupations will stimulate conversation between people, and a rich language environment will be created for language development and for the acquisition of a large vocabulary. These reading materials if developed will enable our young ones to fit better into the society, interact well and function effectively. The appreciation of how words are used in their stories will help them learn to use them in a variety of ways.

Theoretical framework

The theory adopted for this work is Skopos theory of translation. This theory was developed by Reiss and Vermeer in the 1980s. The 'Skopos' has its root from the Greek word 'Aim' or 'Goal'. This theory stipulates that the aim or function of the translation solely decides the translation method to be used. The function the translation is meant to carry out gives the translator the freedom on how to tackle the translation. This theory according to Hatim, (2009) in Ezika, (2015:470) holds that "the way the target text eventually shapes up is determined to a great extent by the 'function' or 'Skopos' intended for it in the target text".

Discussing the term creation, Dubuc (1978) in his approaches to terminology creation, discusses under two major headings:

The Direct formation of terms: This entails the entire new creation of lexical units. Techniques/methods under this heading include

- Derivation: Formation of new words by derivation involves the addition of affixes to the root word

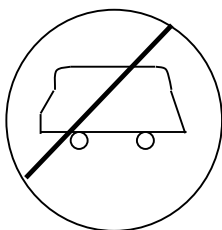
- **Composition:** Formation by composition involves the combination of already existing words or elements in the language to form new words. This is achieved by joining two or more words. It is a noun+noun construction
The Indirect formation of terms: This involves the morphological transformation of already existing words in a language in order to create new words. Techniques/methods under this heading include:
 - **Semantic extension:** This is the act of extending the meaning of words either by logical relationship [or by analogue of form or function.
 - **Change in grammatical category:** Here, a term can simply be created by changing the form class to arrive at a new term.
 - **Loanng or borrowing:** These occur when there is no existing and acceptable equivalent term in the target language. When a word is borrowed in Igbo, the rule stipulates that the word should be written with the orthography and sound system of the Igbo language

Igbo Road Sign Terms

Source text

Target text

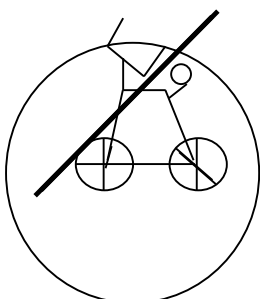
Methodology



Truck prohibited

A chọghị nnukwu ụgbọala

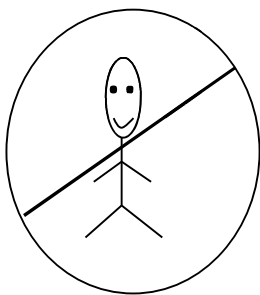
Composition/analogue of form



Cycle prohibited

A chọghị igwe

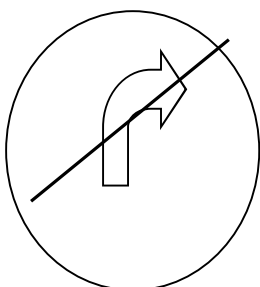
Analogue of form



Pedestrian prohibited

A chogh ndi ukwu

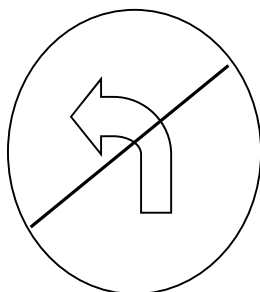
Composition/analogue of form



No Right turn

Atugharila akanri

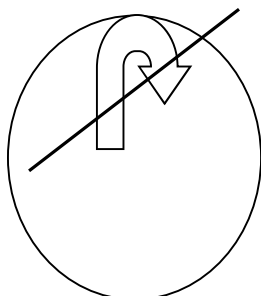
Analogue of form



No left turn

Agala akaekpe

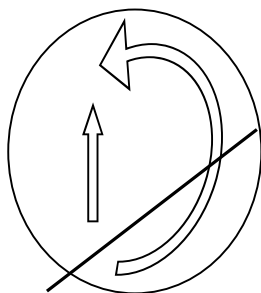
Analogue of form



No U turn

Echigharila azu

Analogue of form



No Overtaking

Agbafela ụgbọala ozo

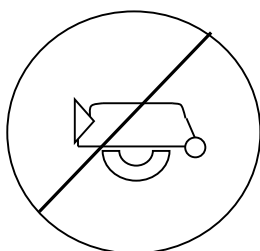
Composition/analogue of form



Speed limit

Agbakarịla KM iri ise

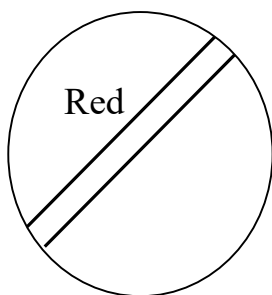
Change in grammatical category



No Honking

Egbula opi

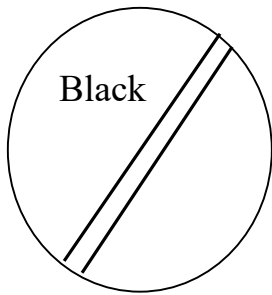
Analogue of form



No parking

Adowala ụgbọala ebe a

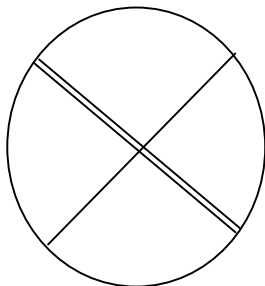
Composition/analogue of form



Restriction ends

Gawazie

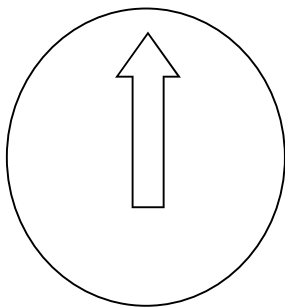
Analogue of form



No stopping

Akwụsịla ebe a

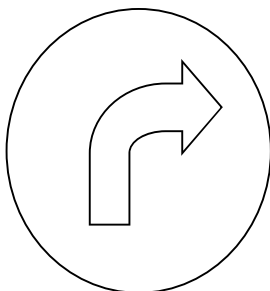
Analogue of form



Compulsory ahead only

Gawa naanị ihu

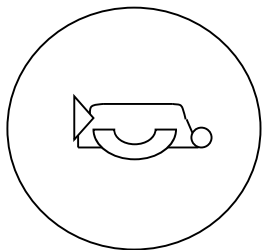
Composition/analogue of form



Compulsory turn left

Gaa akanri

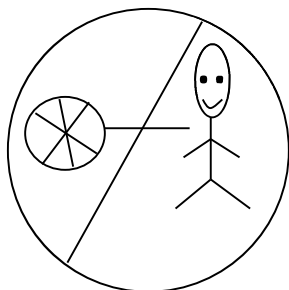
Analogue of form



Compulsory horn

Ị ga-egburiri opi

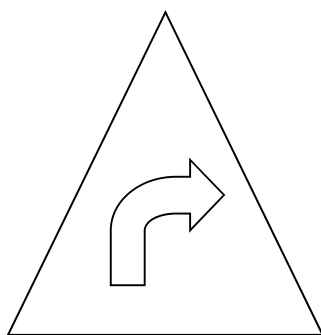
Analogue of form



Hand cart prohibited

A chọghị onye kwa ihe

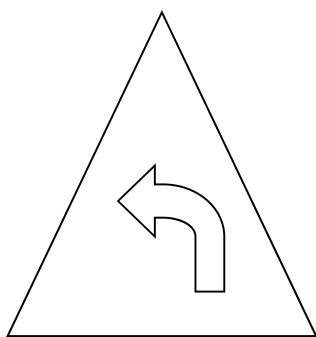
Composition/analogue of form



Right hand curve

Gaa akanri

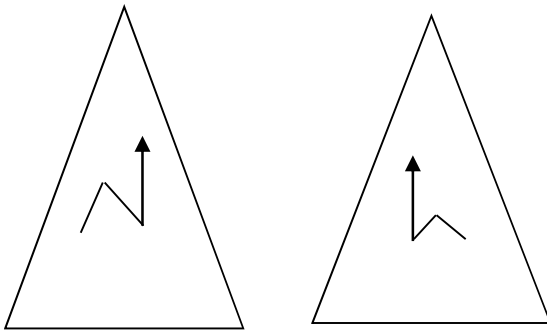
Analogue of form



Left hand curve

Gaa akaakpe

Analogue of form



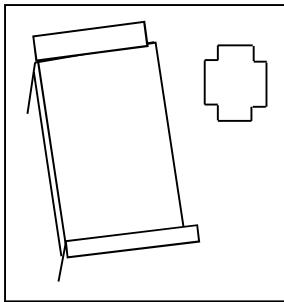
Right

Left

← Reverse bend

→ Ụzọ gbagorọ agbagọ

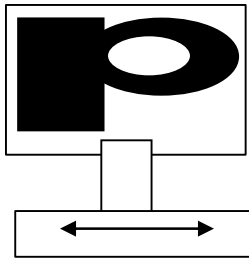
Composition



Hospital

Ụlọ ọgwụ

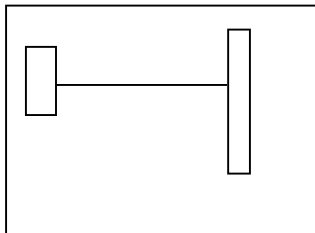
Composition



Park both sides

Dọwa n'akụkụ abụọ

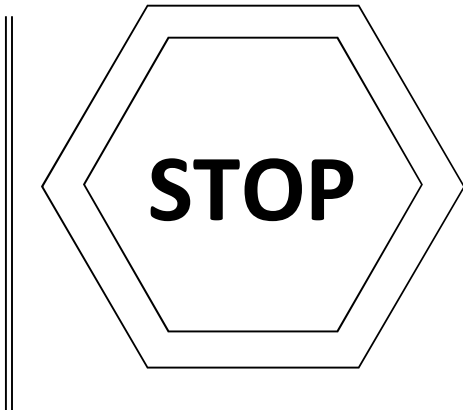
Analogue of form



No Road

Ụzọ agaghị

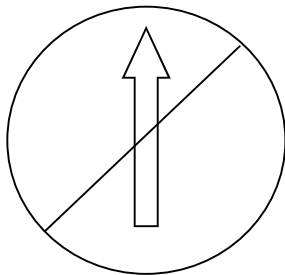
Analogue of form



Stop

Kwụsị

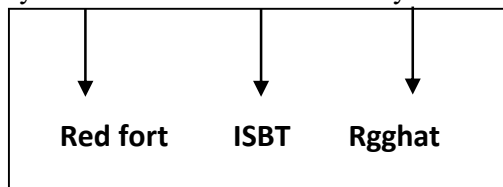
Analogue of formqq



No entry

Abanyela

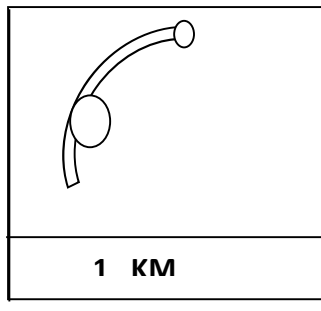
Analogue of form



Advance direction sign

Ngosi ụzọ dị n'ihu

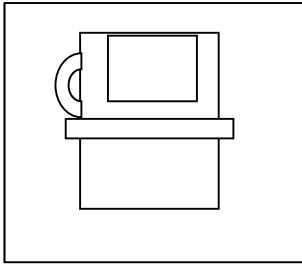
Composition



Public telephone

Ekwentị ọhanaeze

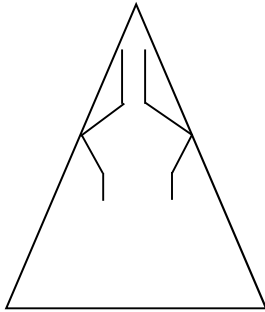
Analogue of form



Petrol pump

Ọdụ mmanụ ụgbọala

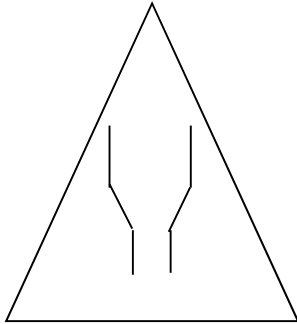
Composition/analogue of form



Narrow road ahead

Warawara ụzọ dị n'ihu

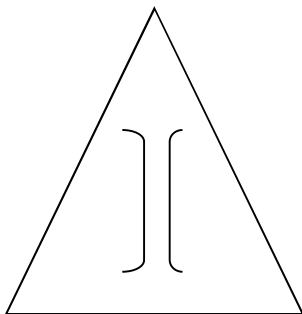
Analogue of form



Road widen ahead

Obosara ụzọ dị n'ihu

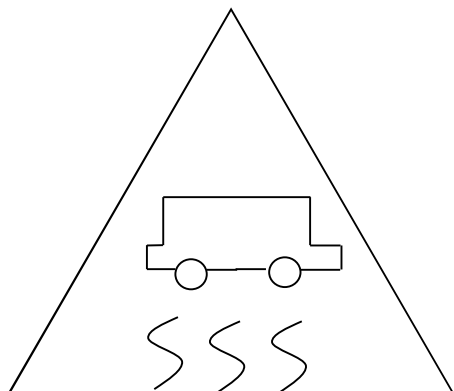
Analogue of form



Narrow bridge

Warawara akwa mmiri

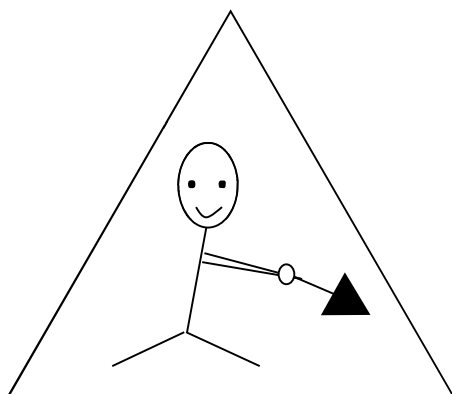
Composition



Slippery road

Ụzọ na-amị amị

Analogue of form



Men at work

A nọ ọrụ

Analogue of form

Summary and Conclusion

This work has attempted to create about thirty-two Igbo road sign terms borne out of the researcher's understanding of the signs. The terms created are mere suggestions; they are subject to criticism by the appropriate standardization committees. Also investigated is the state of technical terms in the Igbo language. Nwanjoku, (1998:54), says terminology research in Igbo language is still in its infant stage, compared with what is obtains in many other languages, particularly languages of wider diffusion". The dearth of technological terms in Igbo language, impedes technological development and communication based on the language. He further affirms that technological inadequacy of the Igbo language is clearly manifest in the code-switching that has become a permanent feature of Igbo scientific and technical discourse among the educated Igbo.

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