## **TERMINOLOGICAL CREATION: A PRACTICAL APPROACH**

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### Abstract

Language is the prime and fullest means of interpersonal and intergroup interaction. It is indispensable in achieving social harmony, economic prosperity, scientific and technical advancement, political stability and dissemination of information in all facets of life. The world has acquired the status of a global village. This phenomenon stems from the application of technical devices. One of such major devices is communication. Translation forms an integral part of this system. It is instructive to note that despite the reduced nature of the world into a global village, differences predominate in terms of culture, tradition, religion, politics, scientific and technical breakthrough, economics, etc. Translation bridges the gap between the aforementioned obstacles. In the course of the translation, numerous foreign terms are encountered hence the need for term creation. The crux of this paper is on some techniques in term creation that are more frequent in the indigenous languages (Igbo language) with their examples.

### Introduction

The need to append names to things, to find or coin names for objects, systems, organisms, skills, mechanisms, etc. has an age-long history. It is not just enough to produce a list of terms or to create terms haphazardly. Term creation has its systematic rules and regulations. The need for proper translation calls for terms in different fields or domains of study. Term is not a vocabulary. In other words, any word in vocabulary can be specialized in any field of work and can be realized as or called a special term. Rey (1979:7) defines term as 'ce qui limite et définit le sens' that which limits and defines meaning. Term is specialized word in a specialized area. A term could also be seen as a cognitive tool that enables one to understand a concept; a designation of a concept. Boillet in his Dictionary of Science, Letters and Arts (1964, 7th edition), defines terminology as 'The generality of technical terms of a science or of an arts, terms and the ideas that they represent'. A term is out for specificity of language in a technical domain. The issue of terms and term creation are crucial in language development. The need to take care of new ideas and technological developments have given man the challenge to create terms to meet up with these developments, and the study of terms is referred to as terminology. Dubuc (1978:14) says that terminology has come to mean 'the approach that enables one to group and to structure a collection of terms perculiar to a technical domain associated with science or arts and the ideas represented by them'. According to the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2006:1526) 'terminology is the set of technical words or expressions used in a particular subject'. Futhermore, terminology is the scientific study of terms. According to Wikipedia (2011):

Terminology denotes a discipline which systematically studies the labelling or designating of concepts particular to one or more subjects, fields or domains of human activity, through research and analysis of terms in context, for the purpose of documenting and promoting consistent usage. This study can be limited to one or can cover more than one language at the same time ?(multilingual terminology, bilingual terminology and so forth) or may focus on studies of terms across.

In their reflection on the above mentioned quotation, Obasi et al (2011:129-130), elucidate in the following manner:

Terminology underpins the particularity of words and expressions having specific meanings in specific fields of study of human endeavour. The definition above implies that terminology is the scientific study of terms and the process of term creation, human activity or science that is essentially preoccupied with the collation, analysis and standardization of new words, special vocabulary, specialized words and expressions in a given domain....

Terminology is summarized as the science of proper use of terms in all domains of study; it tends to identify and clarify a term for effective communication and comprehension. Again, since human beings from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds keep interacting, there must be the need to have new terms to express new ideas, objects, concepts etc. Different authors have different views regarding the creation of new terms. Ukeje in Ohaike (2010:48) has two methods of developing new terms in any language - translation and creation of new words. According to him the translation method implies the conversion of a term in the original language into a meaningful term in the indigenous language. He goes further to say that techniques such as transliteration, calques and loan should be employed. Joanne in Ohaike (2010:48) says word formation processes in English language include: coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, conversion and derivation. Abdulazizi (1985:47) outlined five methods of new term formation. They are borrowing, calquing, composition, affixation and derivation. Ndimele (1999:63) apart from affixation has eight strategies for creating new words - borrowing, coinage or neologism, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronyms and compounding. Dubuc (1978) has two techniques of term creation – direct and indirect. The crux of this paper is on some techniques in term creations that are more appropriate in our indigenous languages (Igbo language) with their corresponding examples.

### Importance of terminology in translation

Terminology is very essential in translation practice. As the scope and complexities of terminology that is needed for translation continues to grow, a pooling of efforts to cope with it becomes imperative – storing and maintaining terms in a form suitable to the needs of the translator becomes very essential. Terminology serves the purpose of precisely defining things, object, etc. wish facilitates the work of the translator. It also facilitates the translator's work in locating equivalent terms in the desired target language. Terminology also makes the translator's work easier by reducing the time required for terminology search. This is clear on terminology data bank. Terminology is very important in translation since the message contained in a source language has to be translated into various languages for a wider audience to be reached.

#### **Techniques in term creation**

The issue of terms and term creation are crucial in language development. The need to take care of new ideas and technological developments has given man the challenge to create terms to meet with these developments. This has given rise to techniques in term creation which has its systematic rules and regulations. There are numerous techniques in term creation but we are going to limit ourselves to a few which include:

(a) Analogy: This technique involves naming terms with reference to their forms (shape) or functions.

There are two main types of analogy: Analogy of form and function.

- (i) Analogy of form: Here terms are named with reference to their forms. This could lead to one term used in different domains, eg. Network in Igbo is alughulu (from the intricacies of the cobweb). Volkswagen a car that has the shape of tortoise is referred to as 'Okpurukpu mbe' that is 'Tortoise' in Igbo language.
- (ii) Analogy of function: This is one of the oldest methods of coining words and it involves the extension of an original meaning. Examples
  Cervix Owannwa.

Cervix is the neck of the womb and serves as the pathway through which the child is delivered hence the name in Igbo is 'Owannwa' which means the child's pathway. It therefore means that the cervix and the pathway are performing the same function, that of thoroughfare.

Uterus - akpannwa

Uterus carries/houses the baby in the womb. Bags are for carrying things hence the Igbo term for uterus is 'akpannwa' – bag that carries the baby. It is an analogy of function as the uterus performs the same function as the bag.

Midwife- Oghonnwa

The midwife protects the newborn baby from falling and sustaining injury just like the goal keeper protects and ensures that his opponents did not score against him.

- (b) Loaning: This means borrowing from within (intra) or outside (inter) the language involved. There are two main types of loaning, internal and external loaning.
  - (i) Internal loaning: When a language loans from itself, it becomes internal loaning (intra-linguistic loaning). e.g. Central Igbo lacks the term for 'lake' and it was discovered that the term for lake exists in Agulu in Anambra state as 'ezu' and the central Igbo borrowed 'ezu' from Agulu. The same thing is applicable to the terms 'hundred' and' thousand', 'nari' and 'puku' respectively.

(ii) External loaning: This is inter-linguistic loaning. It simply means borrowing from one language into another e.g. Hausa to Igbo, Yoruba to Hausa, Yoruba to Igbo, English to Igbo etc.

Okwu mbite	Asusu e si nweta ha
Agidi	Yoruba
Ashioke	Yoruba
Oga	Yoruba
Suya	Awusa
Waka	Awusa
Saraaka	Awusa
Njinia	Bekee
Komputa	Bekee
Ichafu	Frenchi

(e) Idiomatic rendering: Idioms are succession of words whose meaning are not obvious through the knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learnt as a

whole. It is an expression that is perculiar to a society. It is a form of word coinage which leads to the introduction of new words or extension of meaning of existing words. Examples: Abstinence (not having sexual intercourse) - enweghi mmeko/mknachi ukwu

ot naving sexual intercourse)	e) - enwegni mmeko/mkpacni ukwu	
		(not having sex/closing legs firmly)
Condom	-	okpunnabuenyi (cap for the elephant)
Drug addict	-	ojiogwumerenri (one who uses drug as food)
Latency	-	ida mba (to be weak/inactive-dormancy)
Promiscuity	-	Oke aramara/igbanezi- Running outside
		Lack of self control- promiscuous
Sexually active	-	ibu ndu (youthful)
Virgin	-	amaghi nwaanyi maobu nwoke/Awabeghi ukwu
		not knowing man or woman/ have not dissected
		the leg
Vulva	-	Ahu nwaanyi –woman's body
Coitus/sexual intercourse	-	mmeko nwoke na nwaanyi

Some of the idiomatized expressions include perfectly innocuous names like oringaohuruoku - one who eats where he sees fire (glutton),

Agwoturumbe – a snake that bites the tortoise (futile effort)etc.

(f) Coinage – These are terms that are coined to be used in the language. It could be words that are in the archives but are revived and assigned new meanings or words that have been combined to form special terms. Examples are:

Casual sex - akwamiko odurukuo

Copolia - ikwuinyo/nkwugheri (saying nonsense/vulgar expressions).

Lesbian - supe this is the term popularly used amongst female students especially those in girls' secondary schools. It refers to sexual attraction between two girls.

(g) Acronym: This is using the first letters of component words to form a term. They are usually pronounced as a word. This is a technique that the Igbo language does not exploit. C.D.C (Center for disease control) –Ebe mgbochi oria (EMO)

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CSW (Commercial sex workers) - Nsi akuna (NA)

NACA (National Action Committee on AIDS) –Ulo oru na ahu maka mminwu (ULONAMM) WAD (World AIDS Day) –Ubochi (ncheta oria) mminwu n'uwa niile (UMU)

(h) Sigla: In sigla, the first letters of the component words are used to produce a term, but the term is not pronounced separately or individually. Example:

OI (opportunistic infection)-ordinary sickness oria nkita(ON)

NGO (Non-governmental organization) – otu ndi nkiti hiwere (ONNH)

Veneral disease – Oria mmeko (OM)

ILO (International Labour Organization) Otu ndi oru n'uwa niile (ONO)

(i) **Euphemism** is typically employed for expressions considered awkward in polite society. Such expressions usually refer to body parts or unpleasant events. Sometimes; the event may not be unpleasant but the need may arise to disguise what is being referred to.

Clitoris - utu nwaanyi ( woman's penis), (ugwu nwaanyi) (woman's foreskin).

Prostitute – Ojiukwuakpaego (one who earns a living with his/her private parts) promiscuous – Igbanezi – (one who is not satisfied sleeping with one man).

(j) Logical relationship means creation of terms through extension. What you suggest is derived from something and is logically associated to it.

(i) Logical relationship from cause to effect: the cause of the problem or sickness is not referred to but the term derived from the effect of the cause e.g.

AIDS – Mminiwu –M+mi+nwu- sucking to death. Agt+suck+die Sickness that gradually squeezes life out of somebody Bomb – oogbunigwe (mass destroyer).

(k) Explicative modulation (Expansion of meaning): This technique is applicable where there is lack of equivalent term in the target language. Using explicatory modulation – explaining the meaning in the target language- solves the problem.

Contraception - mgbochi ime-prevention of pregnancy

Cunnilingus - mmicha+ihe+nwaanyi (otu) Sucking+ thing+woman-sucking of the vagina

Douche - Mmanu +nsachapu Oil +wash out thoroughly - gel for washing out dirt.

Hemophilia -oke+igba + obara - plenty + to flow +blood: Excess bleeding

Live vaccine –ogwu +mgbochi+bu+ndu Live vaccine (preventive drug that is alive)

Manicure –Icho+ mvo + aka + mma To find + nail + hand + beauty To beautify the finger nails.

Outer/course – Akwamiko +a - ba - ghi + ime

Sex without penetrating Sex + pref.+ enter + NEG. inside

Popers – ogwu + n –keli + amu Drug nom strengthen penis A go that arouses the penis.

(I) Back formation :- Is a process of term created by removing an affix (or part) which was thought to be part of the old word, it is a reduction process.

Candidiasis - kandida Homosexual - Homo Laboratory - labu

# Recommendations

From our discussions above, we recommend that:

- \* Media houses and the general public should take advantage of the techniques of term creation and their examples x-rayed above and stop indiscriminate and haphazard creation of terms.
- \* There is the urgent need to create and produce scientific and technological terms in our indigenous languages to facilitate the translation and creation of terminological terms in science and technological domains.
- \* Government and concerned indigenes should sponsor workshop on translation and terminological creation.
- \* Concerted efforts should be made by the authorities in charge to standardize and popularize newly created terms.
- \* There is the need to establish language academies in our different indigenous languages to take care of the influx of new terms so as to create their equivalents in our indigenous languages.
- \* National Institute for Nigerian Languages should have a data bank for easy access of all terms in all domains.

\* Both Federal and State Governments to institute scholarship schemes for students who enter for Nigerian languages in tertiary institutions as well as automatic employments for them upon graduation.

### Conclusion

We have attempted definitions of some techniques in term creation. We have also tried as much as possible in providing examples of the terms believing that it would go a long way in assisting students, researchers, media workers, translators and terminologists in their work, and assist in the overall development of the Igbo language.

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