ANALYSIS OF VARIETIES OF LANGUAGE USE IN BSU

MSUEGA AHAR, PAULINE SEWUESE IGYO AND TUGHGBA TERKIMBI ELIJAH
Department of Languages and Linguistics Benue State University, Makurdi.

Abstract
The research has looked at the analysis of the varieties of languages use in Benue State University Makurdi. The varieties of languages in this sense include languages, dialects and register a term meaning roughly ‘styles’. The researcher has used the Bernstein’s sociolinguistic theory of codes, which states that the class a child belongs to either inhibits or facilitates the child’s linguistic ability. In BSU, the nature of linguistic environment has influence many members of the speech community to speaking English language. The method used by the researcher is a descriptive as and simple percentage as a tool for the analysis of the linguistic situation. A hundred questionnaires

Keywords: Language, varieties, sociolinguistics, multilingualism, community.

INTRODUCTION
The multilingual nature of languages in many speech communities has made the use of language a choice in multilingual speech communities, and Benue State University is not an exception. Given the multilingual nature of speech communities, the society allow or present alternatives, either in different varieties of one language or distinct languages leaving the people with the responsibility of choosing or using whichever language they want to use at given time. Either naturally or by the act planning, language is also assigned various functions which qualify each one of them to be use for what purpose. People therefore make choices daily in regard to what variety of language to use. This is made either consciously or unconsciously.
were distributed and ninety six were collected and used for data analysis. The research identified the various languages used in BSU. A standard variety of English language, pidgin and tribal languages are commonly used. Pidgin and tribal languages are used for other linguistic functions in BSU speech community, depending on the practical situations as well as circumstances. Again, language use or choice is depending on some factors. There are factors which call for the use of particular code in a given society, these factors include the person who is to use the language, the purpose, he/she want to achieve, the people who may serve as the audience and the context among others. These and many factor validates the use of a particular code by a speaker at given time. This is because in multilingual speech communities, the host languages function differently, in other words, language is given specific roles. For example, Nigeria as multilingual speech community, has assigned English language with role of the official language of in the country. Though other languages like; Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa which are indigenous languages are given space to be used at some points in official situation, but English is placed higher above them. Indigenous languages are majorly used for other purposes. To be precise, each language of a speech community has a particular function it plays among the people. For example, we have trade language, language for education, Lingua franca among others. It is obvious that Benue State University also is a multilingual speech community, this is because the members of speech community are coming from different tribes in Benue State and Nigeria at large. Again, there are different activities going on in Benue State University. For example, Education (lectures), trade, various union and associations. It is on this premise that the researcher intends to investigate into the various languages use in Benue State University Makurdi.

Statement of the Problem.
Benue State University is an institution of learning, and is structured with varying academic programmes, it is how ever obvious that, it constitute a multilingual speech community. The researcher's interest is to investigate into the varieties of language use in Benue State University Makurdi.

Purpose of Study/Objectives.
The purpose of this research is to study the varieties of languages use in Benue State University. To be able to study this, the researcher has identified the following objectives.
Research Questions
The researcher in order to be guided into the research, has considered the following research questions.
- What are the various languages use in Benue State University Makurdi
- To what extent is the variation of language use in Benue State University Makurdi

Theoretical Framework
Sociolinguistic has generally attracted many scholars and people engage in it study for various reasons. To ensure effective study theories are used, one of the theories used by scholars is communication accommodation theory, which is related to social identity theory, is about people adjusting to communicate by maximizing social differences. The theory was, propounded and developed by Howard Giles, of Professor teaching communication at the University of California in 1971 (Agbedo 2015, 72). Again, the social exchange theory which maintains that the speaker and the learners share “a common set of interpretative procedures, which allow the speaker’s intentions to be (i) encoded by the speaker and (ii) correctly interpreted corrected by the listeners. The above and many others theories of sociolinguistic are in language analysis. This research uses Bernstein’s Sociolinguistic theory of codes. This theory was propounded in 1971. Basil Bernstein, a British sociologist, is interested in educational matters. According to Bernstein as noted, Anyogo (2014). The class an individual (especially a child) belongs to, either inhibits or facilitates the child’s linguistic ability. He opines that, children born in high class environment or affluence have unlimited items, unlike the children in poverty-ridden homes. According to Bernstein in class, codes and control (1971:76) as cited in Agbedo (2015:67), “forms of spoken language in the process of their learning initiate, generalize and reinforce social types of relationship with the environment and thus create for the individual particular forms of significance. This is relevant to this research because it speaks of different class in the environment, also state how environment present a situation that either facilitates the learning of language or inhabit it.

Conceptual Clarification
Varieties.
Anytime the term variety or varieties is applied. The first impression is that whatever thing being referred to is many. Is a term which generally accounts for
many. When we talk of varieties of languages, it may mean a number of different languages or a manifestation of one language into many dialects. These dialects are not seen as separate languages but as varieties within one language that accrues functions to them as standard, regional or local dialect among others. A dialect is identified by certain differences which exist within a language. Either at the phonological level, morphological or syntactic structure. For example, in Tiv language differences exist at the level of sounds. Like the word “Aondo” is spelled differently depending on the dialect of the Tiv language. Hudson (2003:23), agrees that, “seen from this list that the very general notion ‘v’ ‘variety’ includes examples of what would normally be called languages, dialects and registers a term meaning roughly ‘style’. Hudson, (2003) did not only agree that the term varieties is associated with languages or dialects of a language but he adds that registers and style are also part of this concept. Crystal (2011:509) opines that, variety is “a term use in sociolinguistics and stylistic to refer to any system of linguistic expression whose use is governed by situation variables. In some cases the situational distinctness of the language may be easily stated, as in many regional and occupational varieties (e.g London English, religious English). Several classifications of language varieties have been proposed, involving such terms as dialects registers, medium and field. Here, the scholars have again enumerated as to identify what distinctiveness in language houses the term variety. However, one important matter is a variety situation does not exclude languages and dialects which is the concern in the research.

Language
In the words of Derham and Lobeck (2013:2),

“language is what make us human and we all seem to be naturally curious about it. We do much more than just communicate with language. It means language is a human attribute necessary for effective living, this because with language we do not only speak but do many things one should however note that, what is said and done using language is situated in an environment. The use of language in any given society has numerous implications on the people which constitute the environment. The efficacy and indispensability of language is philosophically summed up in the achievements made by language. Language is the facilitator of human essence. All inventions and achievement ever recorded in human existence have their roots in language. Language use stems from people beliefs systems as determine by the norms in the society (Omachonu 2011:1).”
Multilingualism

In recent times little or nothing is said about the monolingual societies. This is because many factors have change the linguistic situation of speech communities that speech communities are multifaceted in cultures, language and other aspect. Ahar, Nartondo and Solomon (2018:33) opines that “multilingualism represents a linguistic situation whereby more than two native languages exist in a speech community. It means a society or a speech community housing more than two languages as their daily medium of interaction. Again, Mathews (2007), asserts that a multilingual situation qualifies a person having equal control of more than two native languages, it could be a community in which more than two languages are native. Benue State and Benue State University Makurdi as a speech community houses more than two native languages it is therefore a replicate of the description above. It must ever be established that a multilingual society or environment has both advantage and disadvantages. Language plays a key role, whatever can be achieved in a multilingual speech community.

Methodology of the Study

The study adopts descriptive technique to analyse the language situation in Benue State University Makudi. The people of the environment constituted the community under research and the people are students, staff and traders among others. A sample size of hundred questionnaire were for data analysis using linear scale. Result was presented using simple percentage.

Results

Section A: identify the varieties of language use in BSU

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<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<th>A</th>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>There are many languages use in BSU</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>English is the official language use in BSU</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tiv/Idoma languages are not recognized in BSU</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Etilo is the language mostly use in BSU</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Looking at the table above, 53.1% percent strongly agreed and 34.4% agreed many that languages are used in BSU, while, 6.3% strongly disagreed and 6.3 disagreed, 78 percent strongly agreed and 16.7% agreed while 5.2% strongly disagreed and 6.3 disagreed that English is not the official language use in BSU. Again 14.6 percent strongly agreed and 30.2% agreed while 30.2% strongly
disagreed and 35.4% disagreed of the view that Tiv/Idoma languages are not recognized in BSU setting, 2.1% strongly agreed and 2.1 agreed while 63.5 strongly disagreed and 32.3% disagreed and 32.3% disagreed that Etilo is not the language mostly used in BSU.

Section B: the extent of language varieties in Benue State University, Makurdi.

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The most common language use in BSU is English Language</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>People prefer the use of pidgin English during commercial activities in BSU</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lecturers use pidgin in lecture hall</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Students use their tribal languages during local government association meetings</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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In section two above, 646% strongly agreed and 22% agreed while, 104% strongly disagreed and 2.1% disagreed that the most common language use in BSU is not English. 406% strongly agreed and 40.6 agreed while 8.3 strongly agreed and 10.4 disagreed that people do not prefer the use of pidgin during commercial activities in BSU. 12.5% strongly agreed and 8.3 agreed while 58.3 strongly disagreed and 20.8% disagreed. Finally, 54.1% strongly agreed and 33.3 agreed while 10.4% strongly disagreed and 2.1 disagreed that students don’t use tribal languages during their local government association meetings.

Discussion

Section A the first questions images on languages used in BSU and 53.1% strongly agreed and 34.4 agreed that many languages are used in BSU. Though 6.3 strongly disagreed and 6.3% disagreed, it is obvious from the percentages of those agreed that BSU is a multilingual speech community. 78.1 strongly agreed and 16.7 agreed that English is the official language used in Benue State University Makurdi. 14.6% strongly agreed and 30.2 agreed, while 30.2 strongly disagreed and 35.4 disagreed with the view that Tiv/Idoma languages are not recognised in BSU setting. The variance percentages have shown not only that many languages are in use within BSU speech community.

But it also accounted for the fact that, in a multilingual speech community, languages exist for a purpose of interaction among the people that are there. Akindele and Adagbite (2005:16) maintains that, a speech community can also
be defined as social groups which may either be monolingual or multilingual, held together by frequency of social interaction patterns and set of from the surrounding areas of weaknesses in the lines of communication. Such communities may consist of small groups bound together by face-to-face contact or may cover large regions. Benue State University Makurdi has within its various social groups as traders, students and staff among others. And they also interacts one with another using their languages. It is obvious here that the contact among languages may create the tendency for one language to another.

Section B is concerned with the extent of varieties of languages use in BSU. From the results, 64.6% strongly agreed and 22.9% agreed, while 10.4 strongly disagreed and 2.1 disagreed that English is not the most common language use in Benue State University. With the percentage one can see clearly that the higher percentage is that of strongly agreed and agreed against the opinions of those who disagreed. 12.5 strongly agreed and 8.3 agreed while 58.3 strongly disagreed and 20.8 disagreed that lecturers don’t use pidgin in lecture halls. This percentage agrees with the claim that in multilingual speech communities class consciousness also determines the language behaviour. For O’rady, Archibald and Katamba (2011:505) maintains that “a finding across many speech communities has been that certain linguistic variation are more closely associated with the upper classes and that these variants carry the most prestige. This implies that language situation in Benue State University Makurdi has been influenced by the educated class, which is the prestigious class in the community. So English language has taken over many people as the medium of communication among various groups. The ethics varieties of languages use are given to restricted use during their local meetings. This is indicated by 54.4% and 2.1% products who disagreed that students do not use their tribal languages during local government association meetings. O’rady, Archibald and Katamba (2011) further state that, language in situations that encouraged different degrees of attention to speech. This is the view which encourages a shift from one language to another.

The above underscores that languages in a speech community are assigned function by the society.

We have trade, first, second, national languages among others Akindele and Adegbite (2005:48). These languages play different roles among the people. So is the situation in Benue State University. English has been assigned with the role of education-teaching and even its non standard variety is been relegated to commercial activities. The sociolinguistic theory of code propounded by Bernstein can be applied here. The theory speaks of what a linguistic
environment can do to a child. According to the theory it can either facilitate or inhibits a child from acquiring the necessary language experience. The linguistic situation in Benue State University community disregard the use of pidgin variety of English language has gain dominance as the most common language use by even traders in Benue State University.

Conclusion
From the above detail study of the varieties of languages used in Benue State University Community, it is obvious that Benue State University is a multilingual speech community which houses language like, English language, pidgin, Tiv, Idoma, Etilo among others. The researcher has established that the varieties of language are used for different activities. But above all, the standard variety of English language is the most commonly used language, given the nature of the environment as an academic institution.

References