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**TÍTULO:** El problema de las peculiaridades léxicas y semánticas del inglés nigeriano.

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**RESUMEN:** El artículo está dedicado al problema de las variaciones del lenguaje que funcionan en la era de la globalización. La investigación ofrece una revisión teórica de las variaciones del inglés nigeriano moderno, y analiza el nivel de influencia del idioma inglés en la condición de las lenguas indígenas. Señala las peculiaridades de las características léxicas y semánticas del inglés nigeriano debido al efecto dominante del inglés.

**PALABRAS CLAVES:** Contacto lingüístico, interacción lingüística, globalización, inglés nigeriano, inglés estándar.

**TITLE:** The problem of lexical and semantic peculiarities of the nigerian english.

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**ABSTRACT:** The article is devoted to the problem of language variations functioning in the era of globalization. The research gives a theoretical review of modern Nigerian English variations, and analyzes the level of the English language influence on the indigenous languages condition. It points out the peculiarities of lexical and semantic features of Nigerian English due to the dominant effect of the English language.

**KEY WORDS:** language contact, language interaction, globalization, Nigerian English, Standard English.

## **INTRODUCTION.**

The global spread of English across the world resulted in its official status in many countries, such as the Gambia, India, Cameroon, Canada, Kenya, Malta, Nigeria, the United States, South Africa. This fact stressed its dominant role and impact on a huge number of language versions of modern English variations.

Due to this influence the language policy of many countries, such as India, Pakistan, Nigeria, is carried out in line with the provision of education in English [Baghana, et al. 2018; Murzinova et al, 2018].

The role of the English language in the development of the language policy of such country as Nigeria is activated by both domestic and foreign policy of the state. The tasks of domestic policy include the solution of a number of problems such as the preservation of the status of indigenous languages and strengthening their role in all spheres of society, the promotion of educational programs [Katchru, 2006; Nukoya, 2006]. However, in practice, this role is played by the English language, as a universal means of communication in education in schools and universities.

Foreign language policy is aimed at preserving the status of the English language and is a set of language measures aimed at maintaining the structure of the language and its various forms of existence [Kenan, 2018; Fitriani & Suryadi, 2019].

The institutions of implementation of the official language policy in Nigeria today are the media and communications, namely television, Internet, computer sphere. Nigeria's public television and radio channels broadcast in English throughout the country. Each of the 36 States of Nigeria has its own radio station, which informs residents about the latest developments in the country and States. Most States also have their own TV channels, private TV and radio companies, the number of which according to the statistics of 2018 is more than 300 items.

## **DEVELOPMENT.**

### **Methodology.**

This article is based on the basis of systemic approach to the interdisciplinary analysis. Due to the cognitive cross-disciplinary approach we take into consideration the anthropocentric factor, linguistic and non-linguistic information, intercultural analyses, especially dealing with the problem of mentality and language correlation.

### **Results and discussion.**

In our research work, we analyze the linguistic variability of the English language in one of the largest countries in West Africa – Nigeria. Some peculiarities of functioning of territorial variant of English in Nigeria were the subject of analysis in works of such foreign linguists of the XX century as A. Bamgbose, E. Bamiro, E. Osammor, V. Katchru etc. In their works linguists studied of semantic change in individual lexical fields of Nigerian English were studies; a comparative analysis of the semantic variation of lexical units and expressions from British English and regional language of Nigeria was taken; previously obtained theoretical knowledge was systematized and the most

common and contrasting characteristics of the English language and the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria were revealed [Bamgbose, 1998; Bamiro, 1998; Melzian, 2001; Osammor, 2010; Yazdekhasti et al, 2015].

Significant contribution to the study of lexical and semantic features of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria was made by famous linguist and sociologist H. Igboanusi [Igboanusi, 2001]. In his research, the author hypothesized the achievement of lexical and semantic innovations in Nigerian English through some linguistic processes, such as semantic change, functional transformation, reduplication [Igboanusi, 2001]. Unlike its predecessors, the author focuses not only on the lexical and semantic features of definitions, but also reveals their cultural and etymological aspects.

The aim of the research work is to identify the lexical and semantic features of the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria. The authors of work identify historical and cultural factors affecting the formation of the lexical composition of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, determine the semantic features of the lexical features, identify the features of such semantic derivation as narrowing and expanding the meaning and determine their specific functioning on the material of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria.

In the course of linguistic interaction of English and indigenous languages in Nigeria there were varieties of Nigerian English languages [Alo, 2004]. Based on the principle of territorial division, a well-known Nigerian linguist D. Cruz distinguishes Eastern English language, Western English language, Northern English language [Cruse, 1998].

Another famous linguist D. Crystal identifies the typology of English language groups in Nigeria, based on variations in the English language of the largest indigenous language groups, which are usually referred to “Igbo English”, “Yoruba English”, “Hausa English” [Crystal, 2003].

The typology of Nigeria language variation was also developed in the research work by T. Falola, it was based on the principle of linguistic criteria, founded on the rule of derogation from the norms [9. p. 14-16]. In the process of analyzing this criterion, the scientist identifies four varieties of Nigerian English:

- 1) A complete deviation from the norm of the English language, noting the impossibility of using this form at the international level.
- 2) Approximation to the standard of the English language from the standpoint of syntactic features, but with pronounced phonological and lexical characteristics, this option is considered socially acceptable, but not at the international level.
- 3) The language variation, which has a great similarity in syntax and semantics with the standard English language but has some phonetic and lexical features from local languages. Such options are socially acceptable in communication at the international level.
- 4) The variant which is identical to the British English language in terms of syntax, semantics, phonology, phonetics and is socially acceptable and applicable at the international level [Falola, 2009; Iravani et al, 2015].

The third parameter, which determines the level of English as a foreign language, is the level of professional education of a Nigerian. Taking into consideration this parameter, it is customary to distinguish three types of English language proficiency levels:

- (1) The low level of English proficiency acquired by Nigerian students at the primary level of education and continuing their studies at the secondary level.
- 2) The average level of English language proficiency associated with the continuation of English study process in high school and improving the level of English at the institutions and universities. This category also includes undergraduate students and journalists.

3) The professional level of English. This level of proficiency is typical for most teachers of higher education institutions, judges, representatives of the administration, editors of publishing houses [Soneye, 2011].

Another famous Nigerian linguist N. Nukoya defines four levels of English usage by Nigerians based on the stages of education:

- 1) Pidgin English, for which the lack of formal education and the low knowledge of the English language is typical.
- 2) Primary education, which is characterized by proficiency in English at a fairly primitive level.
- 3) Secondary level of education, implying knowledge of English at the elementary level.
- 4) The highest level of education, which shows self-proficiency in English [Oyegoke, 2002].

All of the above-mentioned parameters have an impact on the level of English proficiency among Nigerian residents today. It should be noted that the educational level of Nigerians not only serves as a material for a detailed empirical analysis by many linguists, but also still raises many unresolved questions about its relationship with the norms of the Standard English language in terms of syntactic, semantic, phonological, phonetic features with some lexical variations.

The peculiarities of lexical and semantic variations' representation in the territorial variants of the Nigerian English language have been described in work by A. Bamgbose. In his works, the author conducted a systematic analysis in the study of internal indicators of lexical and semantic variations and investigated such important aspects as demographic and geographical [Baghana, et al. 2018].

In the works of African Philologist L. Oyegoke the analysis focuses on the classification of lexical and semantic innovations in the field of semantic deviations [Ogbulogo, 2005]. The author believes that lexical innovations are not able to function in the process of applying certain registers, since they include lexical units typical only for the presentation of certain professional fields spheres [Ogbulogo, 2005].

However, Nigerian linguist and linguist H. Igboanusi is not a supporter of this theory. The researcher emphasizes that although the use of many Nigerian English-language innovations in everyday speech has reached demographic, geographical and authoritative levels; at the moment, there are difficulties in the process of codification and de codification of information, speech intelligibility and adequate perception of various lexical innovations among the population.

Taking into account the complexity factor in the process of accurate interpretation of such lexical innovations, lexical and semantic innovations continue to be noted in dictionaries as erroneous phenomena [Langlo, 2018; Jaramillo, 2018]. In his dictionaries the researcher identifies the semantic expansion of lexical units, which is characterized as a process in which certain lexical units acquire additional meaning.

Analyzing a specific feature of the lexical units of the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria, the author highlights such a characteristic feature as the semantic shift. The concept of the semantic shift of the Nigerian English language is considered as a property to differ in its meaning from the Standard English language. In his works, in the process of studying the range of lexical units in the English language of Nigeria, the author believes that the English language is able only to some extent to cover aspects of Nigerian culture, which leads to a narrowing of the value of a lexical unit; for example, analyzing the terms determining kinship in the Yoruba language, the well-known Nigerian linguist M. Alo emphasizes some semantic differences in meaning associated with the use of the lexemes “father”, “mother”, “brother”, “sister”.

In English, the lexemes are used in the description of blood relatives of one family representatives. In the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria for these lexemes not only this value is typical, but also Nigerian English is characterized by the expansion of the meaning. Lexemes “father”, “mother”, “brother”, “sister” in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria are also used

as a presentation of relatives of different generations, as well as to appeal to older people [Blench, 2005].

In the process of studying the semantic properties of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, African linguist S. Ogbulogo concludes that lexical innovations retain the values of the British English language but leave the opportunity to retain the specific properties of Nigerian culture [15. p.92-99]. In his research, the author analyzed the features of the representation of the lexemes of the Igbo language of terminological series in the field of science and technology and derived a number of innovative lexical meanings, for example:

1. Igwe (Nigerian English) – Machine (British English).

The lexeme in Igbo - Igwe, which in English corresponds to the value of machine – that is, any mechanical structure that is used for the movement and movement of any objects - acquires in the territorial version of Nigerian English a number of additional values, indicating the expansion of the value of the original unit, namely:

Iron – iron.

Bicycle – bike.

Engine – motor.

2. Ogbunigwe (Nigerian English) – Missile (British English).

The lexeme of Nigerian English Ogbunigwe in English corresponds to the value of the missile, which is interpreted as a rocket, projectile, rocket. However, in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, the word acquires a number of additional meanings, such as – bomb, grenade, machine gun. Thus, in this example, the lexeme Ogbunigwe acquires a kind of semantic derivation as an extension.

### 3. Ogwu (Nigerian English) – Medicine (British English).

In Nigerian English, Ogwu lexeme corresponds to the meaning of medicine in English, which implies a drug of the widest spectrum. In the language of Igbo, the word in question acquires additional properties due to the expanding meaning: a drug that has a narcotic property, charm, attractiveness, talisman. In this example, we can also observe a kind of semantic derivation as an extension of the value.

### 4. Mmiri (Nigerian English) – water (British English).

The lexeme of the English language water, interpreted in Nigerian English as Mmiri, as well as previous examples, acquires a number of additional values indicating the expansion of the value of the original definition, for example: liquid syrup, glaze.

However, in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria there is another trend, namely the loss of the uniqueness of cultural identity in the interpretation of certain lexical units. This process is associated with the narrowing of the meaning of many lexical units and the loss of specificity of the cultural heritage of Nigeria. The process of narrowing the meaning of lexical units is particularly clearly possible to trace in the interpretation of lexical units of the thematic group "National Clothes and Shoes".

Examples:

#### 1. Agbada (Nigerian English) - Flowing gown (British English).

An element of Agbada national dress is a national type of clothing for men and is a necessity for any African man who wants to make a proper impression in the society. Such clothing is a long shirt of bright color, which is decorated with embroidery, typical of cultural belonging to a particular ethnic group of Nigeria. These clothes have a long history rooted in the cultures of the indigenous peoples of Nigeria. However, the English version of the Flowing gown, which interprets the considered element of the male wardrobe, loses most of the meaning of this definition, as it reflects only the

external qualities of clothing (flowing dress), which indicates a narrowing of meaning of the definition.

## 2. Abada (Nigerian English) – White Clothes (British English).

National African clothing Abada can refer to both women's and men's clothing ensemble. The costume is an exclusively white garment worn by Muslims during the prayer. In Nigeria, the female type of Abada clothing is a long white tunic, and the male clothing set consists of white trousers and a white shirt. In the Igbo language, which is one of many interethnic means of communication, the analyzed lexical unit is interpreted as women's belt, twice wrapping the waist. In the Nigerian language, Abada is a representation of the lingual culture, while the English version of the Nigerian language displays only White Clothes.

## 3. Adire (Nigerian English) – Clothes (British English).

Adire is a special type of fabric used in the Nigerian industry, famous for its bright color. Initially, Adire material was an ordinary cotton fabric with bright embroidery. The basic form of clothing, made of Adire fabric, was a combination of two sewn together fabrics, forming a kind of dress.

Over the time, the clothing Adire was carried out not only manually, but also in factories. Now such cities of Nigeria as Abeokuta, Ibadan, Osogbo are the large shopping centers of sales of national Nigerian clothes from Adire fabrics. Modern Adire is characterized by the embroidery of purple or blue colours, called Indigo. The Indigo coloring tradition has its roots in West Africa, symbolizing well-being and nobility. The lexical version of the definition of the English language – Clothes – does not reflect the cultural characteristics of the Nigerian people and represents the elements of clothes in general. In this example, as well as in previous ones, we observe such a phenomenon as the narrowing of the lexical meaning of the word.

4. Boubou (Nigerian English) – Gown (British English).

Boubou is a special type of clothing worn in West Africa by both men and women. Sewn from a large cloth fabric, Boubou is an elegant outfit that reaches the ankles. Traditionally, this garment is made in special workshops. One must mention, female and male versions differ in the shape of the collar. Women's Boubou has a rounded collar, symbolizing fertility, and the male version of the suit forms a long V- neck element, which is a symbol of luck and prosperity. The English equivalent, Gown is not capable of transmitting a toning value of the considered lexical units.

5. Cover shoe (Nigerian English) – Shoes (British English).

The lexical unit - Cover shoes – represents a pair of shoes which does not cover the entire leg, such as sandals. English analogue, Shoes, does not give the full idea of the lexeme characteristics.

6. Danshiki (Nigerian English) – Jumper (British English).

The element of Nigerian clothing, Danshiki, is a men's and women's type of clothing in bright colors, covering the part of the body. For Nigeria, this type of clothing has a characteristic feature – the absence of sleeves and the design of the armhole contrast piping. The modern variation of Danshiki is represented by costumes of different combinations from simple draped clothes to multicomponent costumes. The English version, Jumper, which is an element of knitted clothing with long sleeves and a high collar, does not reflect the peculiarities of the representation of national clothing.

7. Oriki (Nigerian English) - Praise name (British English).

English version of the Praise name does not fully correspond to the value of the Nigerian English language word Oriki. The definition of Oriki originally had a greater emotional saturation of lexical meaning and implied a longer period of action. The example under consideration can be interpreted as appreciating for someone's help, honoring someone's services, worshipping someone throughout life. In the analyzed example, as in the previous ones, we observe such a kind of semantic derivation as a narrowing of the words meaning.

## **CONCLUSIONS.**

All on all, the global spread of English in the modern world has led to the fact that today the English language has an official status in many countries of the world, one of which is a country in West Africa, Nigeria.

The research work analyzed the historical, cultural and linguistic features of the process of formation of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria and identified some of its lexical and semantic characteristics.

The complex of external circumstances in which the process of functioning and development of the language takes place, namely the social structure of society, the differences between native speakers due to age or social status, level of education and culture, influenced the level of English proficiency of the inhabitants of modern Nigeria. The geographical boundaries of the distribution of languages in Africa do not coincide with the political boundaries, so in Nigeria there are many variations of language groups, this factor determines the internal structure of the sociolinguistic situation in Nigeria.

English in Nigeria has the status of the official language, which unites representatives of different ethnic groups, and is the language of politics, Economy, Judiciary, Mass Media, Education. The language policy of the state is aimed at promoting the role of the English language in all spheres of life of Nigerians, which undoubtedly affects the fate of indigenous languages in the direction of their gradual extinction.

Sociolinguistic analysis of language material in the work was carried out using the method of correlation analysis, which is based on the correlation of social parameters and language phenomena as dependent elements. Taking into account the principle of linguistic criteria underlying the classification of variants of the English language in Nigeria, the research investigates the peculiarities of the functioning of the lexical units of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria,

which is a language version that has similarities in syntax and semantics with the Standard English origin.

In the course of the study, we concluded that the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria has specific features at the lexical level due to the influence of indigenous languages. Different variations of lexical innovations are a characteristic feature of historically formed and culturally conditioned features that influenced the state and functioning of the modern English language in Nigeria.

A specific feature of the lexical system of the modern Nigerian English language is the development of semantic derivation, namely the expansion and narrowing of words meaning, which leads to a change in the content dynamics of the language.

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