



Effects of New Media on New Englishes: Perspective of the Nigerian English

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Abstract

New media technologies have transformed global communication and significantly influenced the evolution and dissemination of New Englishes. In postcolonial, multilingual societies, varieties such as Nigerian English, Indian English, and Singaporean English are undergoing rapid change, driven by the proliferation of digital communication platforms. This paper examines the effect of social media, instant messaging, blogging, and other forms of computer-mediated communication (CMC) on the linguistic development of Nigerian English. Drawing on data from Nigerian social media platforms, X (formerly known as twitter), WhatsApp exchanges, and online forums, the study investigates emerging trends in lexical innovation, orthographic variation, code-switching, and expressions of linguistic identity. The findings reveal a vibrant, creative, and hybridized form of English that reflects both indigenous cultural contexts and global digital influences.

Keywords: New media technology, new Englishes, computer-mediated communication (CMC), digital communication platforms

Introduction

The emergence of New Englishes is one of the most significant linguistic developments of the postcolonial era. These English varieties, including Nigerian English, reflect the dynamic interaction between English and indigenous languages, resulting in distinct phonological, lexical, and grammatical systems. In the context of globalized communication, the rise of new media digital platforms such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and blogs has further catalyzed the evolution of English usage. These media platforms facilitate informal, rapid, and often asynchronous communication that blurs the lines between spoken and written forms. As Crystal (19) observes, “the Internet is fostering a new variety of language, with features never before seen”. In Nigeria, a country with over 500 languages, the interaction of English with local languages on digital platforms has created a fertile ground for linguistic innovation.



This paper investigates how Nigerian English is being shaped by new media. It builds on the foundational work of scholars like Kachru (12), who conceptualized the Three Circles of English and Bamgbose (273), who argued for the recognition of indigenous English norms in Nigeria. More recent contributions by scholars such as Jenkins (88), Herring (6) Ugbede (40) provide insights into how English is used in online environments and how these contexts promote new norms and structures.

Statement of the Problem

Although there is a growing body of research on New Englishes, relatively little empirical work has focused on the influence of new media on Nigerian English. In particular, there is a gap in research examining how digital communication technologies especially social media—are changing the way Nigerians use English. This study seeks to fill this gap by documenting the lexical, orthographic, and discursive innovations that are occurring in online Nigerian English discourse.

Aim and Objectives

This study aims to examine how new media technologies influence the evolution, usage, and sociolinguistic identity of Nigerian English as a dynamic variety of New Englishes in digital communication contexts.

1. To analyze the linguistic features of Nigerian English as manifested in digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, and blogs.
2. To examine the role of computer-mediated communication (CMC) in shaping lexical innovation, orthographic variation, and code-switching practices in Nigerian English.
3. To explore how digital discourse reflects and constructs cultural identity among Nigerian English users.
4. To assess the implications of digital Nigerian English for English Language Teaching (ELT) in multilingual contexts.

New Englishes has gained significant footing in recent years; much of the existing scholarship tends to focus on structural features, sociolinguistic identity, and educational implications within postcolonial contexts. However, relatively little empirical attention has been devoted to understanding how new media particularly social media platforms are actively reshaping the linguistic landscape of Nigerian English. This oversight is



especially striking given the rapid proliferation of digital communication technologies and the central role they play in everyday interactions among Nigerians. Platforms such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Facebook have become not only tools for social engagement but also dynamic spaces for linguistic experimentation and innovation.

Despite the visibility of Nigerian English in online discourse, there remains a notable gap in research that systematically examines the impact of these technologies on the form, function, and evolution of the variety. Specifically, there is limited documentation of how Nigerians creatively manipulate English in digital contexts through lexical innovation, orthographic stylization, and discursive strategies that reflect both global digital trends and local socio-cultural realities. This study seeks to address this gap by offering a detailed analysis of the linguistic features emerging in online Nigerian English discourse. By focusing on the interplay between technology and language, the research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how digital environments are influencing the development of World Englishes, with Nigerian English as a compelling case study.

Research Questions

1. How are digital communication platforms influencing the lexical choices of Nigerian English users in online discourse?
2. What orthographic innovations are emerging in Nigerian English as a result of social media usage?
3. In what ways do Nigerians use discursive strategies to express identity, humor, and emotion in digital English communication?
4. How does code-switching between English, Nigerian Pidgin, and indigenous languages manifest in online Nigerian English interactions?

Significance of the Study

This study offers a substantive contribution to the expanding field of digital sociolinguistics and the evolving discourse on World Englishes. By focusing on the Nigerian context, it provides timely empirical insights into the ways in which English adapts and transforms in response to emerging digital communication technologies. Specifically, it examines the dynamic interaction between global digital platforms and



localized sociolinguistic practices, illustrating how Nigerian users actively reshape English through lexical innovation, orthographic variation, and discursive creativity in online environments. The significance of this research lies in its capacity to address a notable gap in existing scholarship, where the impact of new media on non-native English varieties particularly African Englishes remains insufficiently explored. It advances a nuanced understanding of how digital communication fosters linguistic change, not only in structural terms but also in relation to identity formation, cultural expression, and social engagement. The study's findings are expected to be of value to linguists interested in documenting and theorizing language variation, educators seeking to align pedagogical practices with contemporary linguistic realities, and policymakers concerned with the implications of digital language use for curriculum development, language planning, and national communication strategies.

Ultimately, this research positions Nigerian English as a dynamic and evolving variety that embodies both technological adaptation and cultural continuity. It reinforces the relevance of Nigerian English within the global landscape of English usage and underscores the importance of recognizing digitally mediated language practices as legitimate and influential components of linguistic development.

Literature Review

New media technology

New media technology encompasses the digital platforms and tools that have fundamentally reshaped how individuals communicate, share information, and engage with content. Unlike traditional media, which relies on one-directional transmission through outlets like print and broadcast, new media fosters interactive, participatory communication across global networks. Platforms such as social media, blogs, and instant messaging apps empower users to create and disseminate content in real time, breaking down geographical and cultural barriers. These technologies have not only revolutionized sectors like journalism and education but have also influenced linguistic practices, particularly in multilingual societies where digital spaces serve as arenas for identity expression and language innovation (Crystal 238).



New Englishes

The concept of New Englishes stems from Kachru's Three Circles Model, which classifies English using countries based on historical and sociolinguistic factors. It refers to localized varieties of English that have emerged in postcolonial, multilingual societies. Nigerian English is a prime example, shaped by indigenous languages and sociocultural contexts. It is as an Outer Circle country that has indigenized English through contact with over 500 native languages (Bamgbose 274). Jenkins (90) however argues that these varieties should be understood not as deficient but as evolving systems with their own norms.

Crystal (17) and Herring (4) highlight how new media reshape traditional communicative boundaries, giving rise to hybridized discourse practices. In Nigerian digital contexts, studies by Adegoju (262) and Igboanusi (45) identify code-switching, pragmatism, and local idiomatic expressions as key markers of online language use. These studies confirm the fluid, expressive, and highly creative nature of Nigerian English in informal settings.

Orthographic innovations

Orthographic innovations refer to nonstandard and creative modifications in spelling, punctuation, and formatting that emerge particularly in digital communication contexts. These innovations often reflect users' attempts to convey tone, identity, and cultural nuance within the constraints of text-based media. In multilingual and postcolonial societies such as Nigeria, orthographic innovations are frequently employed to represent local pronunciations, blend indigenous languages with English, and express informal or emotive content. Examples include phonetic spellings ("gud" for "good"), abbreviations ("u" for "you") and the integration of indigenous lexical items into English syntax. Such practices are not merely stylistic but serve as markers of linguistic agency and cultural expression, challenging conventional norms of written language. Within the framework of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA), as proposed by Herring (2007), these orthographic choices can be systematically analyzed to reveal patterns of identity



construction, community affiliation, and sociolinguistic adaptation in digital environments.

Code-switching

Code-switching is a prominent linguistic strategy in multilingual societies, where speakers alternate between two or more languages or language varieties within a single conversation or utterance. In Nigeria, this often involves shifting between English, Nigerian Pidgin, and indigenous languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, or Hausa. This practice serves multiple communicative functions, including signaling group identity, expressing emotion, emphasizing meaning, and adapting to different social contexts.

Gumperz defines code-switching as a contextualization cue that helps speakers manage social relationships and navigate cultural norms (149). In digital spaces, particularly on social media, code-switching becomes a tool for linguistic creativity and cultural affirmation. Nigerian users frequently blend languages to reflect their sociolinguistic realities and engage more authentically with their audiences. Adegoju notes that such practices are not merely stylistic but serve as markers of identity and resistance against linguistic homogenization (Adegoju 125). Within the framework of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA), Herring emphasizes the importance of analyzing these linguistic choices to understand how meaning and identity are constructed in online environments (Herring 90). Thus, code-switching in digital discourse is a powerful expression of cultural hybridity and social agency.

Digital communication platforms

Digital communication platforms are central to how individuals interact, share information, and construct identities in the modern world. These platforms ranging from social media networks like X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook to messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram enable real-time, borderless communication that transcends traditional linguistic and cultural boundaries. Scholars define digital platforms as “technological architectures that enable interactions between users and facilitate the exchange of information, goods, or services” (Zeamari and Laurier 61) and as



“multisided systems that coordinate and mediate user behavior through digital interfaces” (Rossotto et al. 95). In multilingual societies like Nigeria, these platforms serve not only as tools for social interaction but also as dynamic spaces for linguistic experimentation and evolution. Users frequently engage in code-switching, coin new expressions, and adapt orthographic conventions to suit informal digital contexts. As a result, digital platforms are not just channels of communication they are active agents in shaping contemporary language use and fostering hybridized forms of English that reflect both local identities and global influences.

Corpus Linguistics and its relevance to Digital Nigerian English

Corpus linguistics is a data-driven approach to language analysis that utilizes large collections of authentic texts known as “**corpora**” to uncover patterns in vocabulary, syntax, and discourse. Unlike traditional linguistic methods that rely on intuition or constructed examples, corpus linguistics emphasizes empirical evidence, allowing researchers to observe language in its natural context (Sinclair 4).

Recent developments have expanded the scope of corpus linguistics into digital domains, making it especially relevant for studying varieties like Nigerian English. Platforms such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), and Nairaland offer rich data sources for compiling digital corpora that reflect informal, multilingual, and hybrid language use. These corpora enable the analysis of lexical innovations, code-switching, and pragmatic strategies unique to Nigerian digital communication (Egbert and Baker 112). Methodologically, corpus linguistics involves compiling representative texts, annotating them with linguistic metadata, and analyzing them using specialized software such as AntConc or Sketch Engine. Consequently, Corpus Linguistics offers a robust framework for exploring Nigerian English in digital spaces. It affirms the legitimacy of localized varieties and contributes to the broader understanding of World Englishes through systematic, evidence-based analysis.

Theoretical Framework



This study is anchored in a sociolinguistic and postcolonial theoretical framework, drawing particularly on three interrelated models such as Theories of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC), Postcolonial Linguistics and Linguistic Hybridity.

Theories of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC)

This study draws on Susan Herring's (2007) theory of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA), which provides tools for analyzing how language operates across different digital platforms. Herring proposes that features like asynchronicity, brevity, interactivity, and informality are fundamental to understanding language use in online communication (6–7).

Postcolonial Linguistics

Postcolonial linguistics examines how language is influenced by colonial history and how it evolves in societies after colonial rule. It focuses on the interaction between indigenous languages and colonial languages like English, highlighting how speakers adapt, resist, and reshape language to reflect local identities and cultural realities. The study is informed by postcolonial linguistic theory, particularly as articulated by scholars such as Canagarajah (1999) and Bamgbose (1998) who challenge the supremacy of native-speaker norms and argue for the recognition of pluricentric Englishes that reflect localized realities. In context like Nigeria, this includes the development of varieties such as Nigerian English which blend local expressions with global forms. This field also critiques Eurocentric linguistic models and promotes inclusive approaches that value linguistic diversity and cultural authenticity.

Linguistic Hybridity

Linguistic hybridity refers to the creative blending of languages, dialects, and cultural expressions within communication, particularly in multilingual and postcolonial contexts. It is a prominent feature of digital discourse in societies like Nigeria, where users often mix English, Nigerian Pidgin, and indigenous languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, or Hausa in online interactions. This fusion reflects not only linguistic flexibility but also the



negotiation of identity, power, and cultural belonging. In the realm of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC), linguistic hybridity is significant, as digital platforms provide spaces for users to experiment with language and assert local identities in global conversations. Susan Herring's (2007) theory of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA) offers a framework for analyzing such hybrid language use by examining linguistic features in online texts, including code-switching, borrowing, and the emergence of new hybrid forms. Through CMDA, researchers can explore how users construct meaning and community in digital spaces by drawing on multiple linguistic resources. Linguistic hybridity, therefore, is not just a stylistic choice but a reflection of the dynamic interplay between language, technology, and culture in the digital age.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative discourse analytic methodology to examine the linguistic features of Nigerian English as used in digital media. Qualitative discourse analytic methodology is a research approach that emphasizes the interpretive study of language within its social context, aiming to uncover how meaning, identity, and power are constructed through communication. It focuses on the nuanced ways linguistic choices such as word selection, sentence structure, and rhetorical strategies reflect and shape broader cultural and ideological frameworks. It is particularly effective for analyzing digital texts, including social media posts and online conversations, where language is informal, fluid, and often hybridized.

Data Sources and Sampling

Data were drawn from three digital sources representative of informal and popular Nigerian discourse from 2020-2024:

- i. WhatsApp** excerpts from youth-based WhatsApp communities.
- ii. Facebook** comment threads.
- iii. X** tweets



Analytical Framework

Data is analyzed manually and thematically using the following linguistic variables: lexical innovation, orthographic deviation, code-switching/mixing, pragmatic markers, and use of emojis.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data presented comprises of 50 illustrative examples, systematically categorized into five linguistic types: lexical innovations, orthographic variations, code-switching and mixing, pragmatic particles and emojis and paralinguistic markers.

Table 1. Lexical Innovation

SN	LEXICAL WORDS	MEANING
1.	"Wahala"	problem/trouble
2.	"Runs"	hustling or informal business or flirting
3.	"Gist"	news or gossip
4.	. "Omo see cruise!"	This is really fun!
5.	"You don blow"	You've become successful
6.	"Flex"	To enjoy life or party
7.	"Detty december"	A festive and indulgent December
8.	. "Soft life"	A life of ease and luxury
9.	"No dull yourself"	Don't waste time
10.	"Package"	Present oneself attractively
11.	"Sapa"	Being broke or financially down
12.	"Japa"	To flee or emigrate
13.	"Drag"	To publicly criticize
14.	"Vibe"	Overall feeling or atmosphere
15.	"Stew"	trendy, hot, or cool

Table 1 highlights how lexical innovation in Nigerian English is driven by digital interaction, serving not only communicative functions but also acting as markers of identity, resistance, and cultural belonging in a rapidly evolving linguistic landscape.



Table 2. Orthographic Variation

SN	Orthographic Variation	MEANING
1.	"pls"	Please
2.	"dat"	That
3.	"u"	You
4.	."4real"	for real
5.	"una"	you (plural)
6.	"d way u dey do"	The way you behave
7.	"govt"	Government
8.	"cuz"	Because
9.	"smh"	"smh" – shaking my head
10	"tnx"	"tnx"

These orthographic variations in Table 2 above illustrate how Nigerian English in digital contexts is shaped by efficiency, creativity, and cultural hybridity. They reflect a living language that evolves to meet the communicative demands of its users, blending global digital norms with local linguistic identity.

Table 3. Code-Switching/Mixing

SN	Code-Switch and Mixed words	Meaning
1.	Abeg no vex"	Please don't be angry
2.	"Make we go chop"	Let's go eat
3.	. "Wetin dey happen?"	What is going on?
4.	"You sabi am?"	Do you know it?
5.	"I dey come"	I'm coming
6.	"Dem no born you well" –	You don't have the courage
7.	"E choke!"	That's intense/amazing/awesome
8.	. "This one na wah"	This is a problem
9.	No be me talk am"	I didn't say it
10	" Omo, e loud!"	It's really exciting

Table 3 illustrate how Nigerian digital communication blends informal English, abbreviations, and Pidgin through orthographic variation and code-switching. These linguistic choices reflect cultural identity, emotional expression, and conversational efficiency, especially in casual or online settings.



Table 4. Pragmatic Particles

SN	Pragmatic Particles	Meaning
1.	. "abeg"	polite request
2.	"jare"	softener/dismissive
3.	"na"	assertion or emphasis
4.	"sha"	soft intensifier
5.	"sef"	emphasis or inclusion
6.	"now now"	Immediately
7.	dey"	to be (present continuous)
8.	"just dey play"	sarcastic remark
9.	"how far?"	casual greeting
10	"ehen"	Response or signal to continue

The particles in Table 4 enrich Nigerian digital discourse by adding touch, rhythm, and cultural flavor to everyday communication. They reflect not only linguistic creativity but also the social dynamics and expressive needs of speakers navigating informal, fast-paced, and emotionally layered interactions online.

Table 5. Emojis and Paralinguistic Markers (5 examples)

SN	Pragmatic Particles	Meaning
1.	😄	Laughter, used with jokes
2.	😓	Exaggerated mock sadness
3.	👉	Something amazing or stylish
4.	🙏	Respect, request, or gratitude
5.	😡	Frustration, sarcasm, exaggeration

These and more emojis are enriching in digital communication especially in Nigerian contexts where tone and vibe matter just as much as the message itself. They help users navigate humor, sarcasm, and emotion in a way that's instantly recognizable and culturally rich.

Data Interpretation and Findings

1. Table 1 highlights how lexical innovation in Nigerian English is driven by digital interaction, serving not only communicative functions but also acting as markers of identity, resistance, and cultural belonging in a rapidly evolving linguistic



landscape. The lexical items presented in the table illustrate the dynamic and innovative nature of Nigerian English as shaped by new media discourse. These expressions reflect a blend of indigenous linguistic creativity, youth culture, and digital communication norms. Words like “*wahala*” (meaning trouble or problem) and “*gist*” (gossip or news) have long-standing usage in Nigerian Pidgin but have gained renewed visibility and semantic flexibility through social media. Others, such as “*runs*” and “*package*”, reflect socio-economic realities, often used to describe informal hustles or flirting depending on usage.

Expressions like “*Omo see cruise!*”, “*Detty December*”, and “*soft life*” are contemporary youth slang, often used to convey enjoyment, luxury, or festive indulgence. These phrases are not only linguistically inventive but also culturally loaded, capturing the aspirations and lifestyle narratives popular among Nigerian digital users. Similarly, “*You don blow*” and “*flex*” celebrate success and leisure, while “*sapa*” and “*japa*” reflect economic hardship and the desire for migration two themes deeply embedded in the Nigerian socio-political context.

Terms like “*drag*”, “*vibe*”, and “*stew*” show how global internet slang is localized and recontextualized within Nigerian discourse.

2. Table 2 showcases the orthographic variation, which refers to the creative spelling and abbreviation of words often seen in informal digital communication like texting, social media, and online chats. These variations are shaped by speed, convenience, and cultural expression, especially among Nigerian youths. These forms reflect digital efficiency saving time and space while texting. They also indicate linguistic creativity, blending English with Nigerian Pidgin and internet slang. For instance words like “*una*” and “*d way u dey do*”, carry cultural identity, grounding communication in local speech patterns. Others, like “*smh*” and “*4real*”, are part of global digital language, showing how Nigerian users participate in worldwide online trends.
3. Table 3 showcases examples of code-switching and code-mixing a linguistic phenomenon where speakers blend elements from different languages or dialects within a single utterance. In this case, it’s a fusion of Nigerian Pidgin English and



Standard English, reflecting the vibrant, expressive nature of everyday communication in Nigeria. These expressions are more than just linguistic blends they carry emotional weight, social cues, and cultural identity. For example: “Abeg no vex” meaning don’t be angry –functions as a polite apology or polite request. “Make we go chop”- Let’s go eat. “Wetin dey happen?”- what is happening, which could be casual or serious. “*E choke!*” is a viral slang popularized by Nigerian pop culture, especially in music and social media which means amazing, surprise, excitement, or even overwhelm—depending on tone and context. “Omo” is a flexible term that can mean simply add flair to a sentence- “Omo e loud!- it’s really exciting or good”. It can be seen that Code-switching like this allows speakers to express themselves more vividly, signal group identity or solidarity, navigate different social settings fluidly.

4. Table 4 presents a set of Pragmatic Particles commonly used in Nigerian English and Pidgin, particularly in informal and digital communication. For instance, “*abeg*” is a versatile particle used to make polite requests or plead emphatically, often softening the force of a demand. “*jare*” functions as a conversational softener or dismissive tag, typically added at the end of a sentence to reduce tension or express casual indifference. “*na*” is used for emphasis or assertion, reinforcing a statement or drawing attention to a point. Similarly, “*sha*” acts as a soft intensifier, subtly modifying the speaker’s tone, while “*sef*” adds emphasis or inclusion, often used to express frustration or exaggeration.

Temporal expressions like “*now now*” indicate urgency or immediacy, while “*dey*” serves as a present continuous marker in Pidgin, showing ongoing action (e.g., “I dey go” = “I’m going”). The phrase “*just dey play*” is typically sarcastic, used to mock or downplay someone’s actions or statements. “*How far?*” is a casual greeting, equivalent to “What’s up?” or “How are you?”, and “*ehen*” is a discourse marker signaling readiness to continue, agreement, or prompting further explanation. These particles serve important discourse functions. They help speakers manage tone, express emotion, signal attitude, and structure conversation.



- Unlike lexical items that carry concrete meaning, pragmatic particles are more about how something is said than what is said.
5. Table 5 highlights how Emojis and Paralinguistic Markers function as expressive tools in digital communication, especially in Nigerian online discourse. These symbols go beyond words they convey emotion, tone, and attitude, helping users add flavor, humor, or emphasis to their messages.
- i. The laughter emojis are usually used with jokes and they signals amusement, light-heartedness, or that a statement is meant to be funny. For example: “*You wan chop my data?* 😄 ” The emoji softens the statement, showing it’s a joke.
 - ii. The emojis of sadness usually used playfully to dramatize disappointment or sadness, often in a humorous or sarcastic way. For example: “*No massa left for me* 😞 ” – expressing sadness but not genuine . it is more of a playful exaggeration.
 - iii. The emojis of admiration usually express admiration, hype, or excitement about something impressive like music, fashion, achievements. For example: “*Omo, that dress fine* 🤩 ” – showing compliment of seeing a beautiful dress or complimenting someone’s style.
 - iv. Emojis of respect request or gratitude it adds humility or sincerity to a message, often used when asking for help or showing appreciation. For example, “*Abeg help me with 10k*” 🙏 this makes the request more polite.
 - v. Emojis of frustration, sarcasm, exaggeration are usually used to signals annoyance, disbelief, or a sarcastic tone especially when words alone might be misinterpreted. For example “*You no go fit t beat me for this match* 😡 ” indicates doubt or mockery.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has explored the transformative impact of new media technologies on the evolution and sociolinguistic identity of Nigerian English, positioning it as a dynamic and hybridized variety within the broader spectrum of New Englishes. Through the analysis of linguistic features across digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, and digital platforms. It has become evident that computer-mediated communication fosters lexical innovation, orthographic variation, and code-switching practices that reflect the lived realities



and expressive needs of Nigerian users. Digital discourse functions not merely as a reflection of cultural identity but as an active agent in its construction, wherein language is strategically employed to negotiate self-representation, foster communal affiliation, and articulate sociopolitical stances.

These findings carry significant implications for English Language Teaching (ELT) in multilingual contexts, highlighting the need for pedagogical approaches that recognize and incorporate digital Nigerian English. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of documenting, integrating, and promoting Nigerian English in educational, linguistic, and technological domains to ensure its continued relevance and representation in the global linguistic landscape.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to support the recognition, documentation, and pedagogical integration of digital Nigerian English:

1. Nigerian English features should be incorporated into ELT Curricula English Language Teaching (ELT) programs in Nigeria and similar multilingual contexts should reflect the linguistic realities of their learners. This includes integrating lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic features of Nigerian English into classroom materials, assessments, and teacher training. Doing so not only validates students' linguistic identities but also fosters a more inclusive and contextually relevant approach to language education.
2. As digital platforms increasingly shape everyday communication, it is essential to promote digital literacy to balance informal and formal registers. Learners can be equipped with the skills to navigate both informal digital registers and formal academic or professional English. Digital literacy programs should emphasize code awareness, register sensitivity, and the strategic use of language across platforms, helping users maintain communicative competence in diverse contexts.
3. Expand Nigerian English Corpora to include Social Media Data Existing corpora of Nigerian English often rely on print media, academic texts, or formal speech. To capture the dynamic nature of contemporary usage, linguistic databases should be expanded to include data from social media, messaging apps, blogs, and other digital sources. This will enable more accurate and representative linguistic analysis and support the development of updated dictionaries and language resources.
4. Conduct further sociolinguistic and Corpus-Based Research as there a need for continued interdisciplinary research into the evolution of Nigerian English in digital spaces. Future studies should explore regional



variation, generational differences and the role of multimodal communication (e.g., emojis, memes, voice notes) in shaping linguistic practices. Corpus-based methodologies combined with ethnographic insights can deepen our understanding of how language reflects and constructs identity in the digital age.

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