

The Effect of Broken Homes on Acquisition of English Language in Secondary Schools in Ife Central Local Government of Osun State

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Abstract

Broken home has a milestone effect on the academic achievement of the children. In the home there is need for harmony, free communication and interaction between siblings, parents and other relatives. The rapour either mal or encourage the acquisition of languages in the home.

The examination of students in secondary school through personal survey reveals that students from broken houses have many academic inadequacies and so they are badly affected in terms of spoken or written English Language as a second language. Recommendations were proffered towards raining the stigma that cause academic laxity in the acquisition of knowledge in English Language.

INTRODUCTION

The acquisition of knowledge of English Language as a Secondary Learner in Nigeria situation shows that it is not easy task as the language is not our mother tongue, but rather a lingua franca, a language of instructions, to be used in all agencies and governmental day to day activities of life. The consequences of broken homes adversely affect the acquisition of English Language in Nigeria. What is broken home? How does it affect student in the school? How does it affect students who intend to study English as a second learner in Nigerian situation? What causes broken homes, in Nigeria matrimonial setting, what are the remote and immediate causes?

Broken homes is defined as the situation whereby husband and wife separated as a result of one problem or the other. The problems range from inability to understand each others. Since both are from different family backgrounds marriage brought them together. The idea of tolerating each other understanding each others behaviour and adjustment to each others ways may be factors or issue that cause broken homes in the society. The issue of infidelity among husband and wife, playing extra-marital affairs by both sexes, outside the matrimonial home coupled with any of the couples not giving due respect to each other or a feeling of inferiority by either of the couples may lend to instability in homes. The idea of constant gorilla warfare in the home, which eventually lead to separation through divorce in the law court often lead to total break of the family. When there is separation between husband and wife, it adversely affects the homes especially the children. The wife played a prominent role in the home especially in the caring of children providing necessary things for them and showing affection to members of the family. The presence of the mother in the home often makes children to feel secured at any point in time. Children often discuss their personal problems with their mother who in turn trying to find solutions to them. Lets ask ourselves, if mother is not at home, due to separation. What do you feel the home will look like? Will there be joy in the homes? The whole house will be totally unsettled and there unlikely be nobody to take care of the children. The man can do little in terms of upbringing of the children. Sine men are breadwinners in the family, they move out in the morning looking for what the family is going to eat and come back later in the evening. This is the daily routine of man in the home. What man does not realize is that, given money to children is not the only yardstick for children to succeed in life, to have affection of parents is more important. In a situation whereby parents, mother and father leave the house in the morning, only to resurface at night may not augur well for children. Children go to school in the morning only to return at four o'clock in the evening not to meet anybody at home. Who then gives them food? Who entertain them or shows affection to them especially in the period of need?. When all these are lacking especially in a broken home children become disillusioned. Who is going to ask from affected children, what they study at school, speak English to them or assist them in home work. The affection of mother to children in the home is highly important even greater than food. Children are already satisfied immediately they see their parent in the home. In the broken homes lets itemise how students from such home behave in the school. Statistical data have shown that children from broken homes misbehave in the school since there is nobody to check their excessive behaviours at home. Since they feel nobody is concern with their lives they do what they like. Some even join bad company, bad gang in the school like secret cult, group of armed bandits, kidnappers, suicide bombers. The most important issue is that if any man or woman shows their affections that quickly embrace the person. The danger inherent in this affection is that after given money and other necessary things such person may use them to carry some nefarious activities contrary to their wishes. They find it difficult to refuse since he who pays the pipers dictates the tune. In a broken home students affected often find it difficult to interact successfully in the school. They often feel inferior in the presence of their mates simply because the home affection either from father or mother is not there.

There are cases of students from broken homes who may not come to school for a week, or more because parents who suppose to care for them in terms of needs both at home or in the school have deficiency. The absence of a woman from the home is a terrible catastrophe for children because all necessary advise needed by the children will be lacking. There will be no affection. In addition in the home where parents are stark illiterate, and could not communicate in English, children may find it difficult to learn English very well since there is nobody to put them through. The mode of communication in such home is the mother tongue which may not yield any fruitful result in the study of English Language in school. Students and children from well educated homes often find it easy to communicate with their parents in English, exchange words, ideas, and do most things in English. The acquisition of any language needs systematic learning, since it involves a continuous process, language is being learnt throughout our lives. You cannot learn any language in isolation. You have to communicate it with other people when exchange is faulty and the learner could not master its rudiments very well. Communication in the language becomes faulty. That is why it is difficult to learn language in a faulty manner.

Students from broken homes

The feel very sad at all times
They are not happy at all times
They often think

There is nobody to advise them

They look dejected at anytime
they look inferior to other students in the schools

They do not possess basic amenities like biros, text books in the home.

The guidance counselors are needed to guide them early time.

Such students could not assimilate the learning of English in school
Such students could not learn English effectively

Such students could easily misbehave in the school
Such students will not concentrate with his/her studies very well.
Such student will lack good advise from people

Teacher easily plays the role of parent for such student from 8- to 2 O'clock in the school.

Such students hardly listen in school
They will not concentrate with his studies.
He joins bad company without even knowing such student move out with anybody so far he can satisfy him/her financially.
Anybody that gives him/or her financial assistance through money, cloth, and given him three square meal in a day will be his step mother
The often remain silent, sober, metachly, and hooky since they don't have anybody to relate with at home

Students whose parents are not From broken homes

They fell very good at all times
They are happy at all time
They feel relax, enjoy, believe that there parent are there at home or them

Parents often play advisory role, which is enough for them

They mixed with people at all times
They feel superior to others

They often possess all basic amenities they need since parents are there for them at home, the parents give them all they want

They hardly need the assistance of guidance counselors except on career chance.

They easily assimilate the learning of English language in schools

Such students learn English effectively at school since their parents are educated and often talk to them in English at home.

The students will concentrate fully on his study and face their education squarely with ease.

The advise given to him at home will have good and positive effect on him in the school, which often facilitate good learning

Teachers are not necessarily invited to play the role of parents since parents are there for them at home.

Such students are always settled for learning in the school.

They will concentrate on their studies.

They do not join bad company, they could not just move roam about since parents are at home expecting him to come earlier.

They need no step mother or just anybody to give them constant financial assistance.

They often relax, mixed with people, feed at ease, respond to learning, develop in language acquisition and learn through many sources at home.

Such students often feel with joy mixed with people, feel proud and reading to respond to corrections.

This table is shown to take sample of students from broken homes in at least five private secondary schools and 5 public schools in Ife central local government of Osun-State. Series of questions were asked from students from the broken homes. These are some of their response.

Responses of Students' from Private Schools towards the Reasons for their Academic Performance in Schools.

-I have nobody to relate with at home and this affect my education adversely because the role needed to be played by my mother is not played.

-I have nobody to meet at home. I remain lonely only to play with my sister.

-There is nobody to advise me as what is good or bad. Our dad comes in the night only to sleep without asking us what we have studied in the school.

-My step mother always beat me and in some cases do not given me food to eat. She often said that she could not take any additional responsibilities and referred to us as handbags.

-Father often gives us money, but we are not satisfied with all these. We need the affection of our mother who is not available to give us all necessary things we need as children. We are suffering.

-The school is not good because the home is not settle. Our father is a stark illiterate and my step mother is like hell.

-I find it difficult to concentrate with the study of English in school. I don't have biro, English notes and my school Uniform is like a tattered kit, tore and no shoe to put on. I am psychologically disturbed.

In some public school visited, in Ife central 5 schools were selected in secondary schools and in the course of my interview with students of broken homes and how it affect English acquisition in schools these are their statements.

Responses of Students from Public Schools on the Reasons for their poor Academic knowledge in English language

-Students often complain that they could not acquire English language knowledge from their teachers due to poor background. Nobody to communicate the language with them at home. My parents are illiterates and they do not stay at home always.

-Students complain of lack of textbooks in the school. Teachers of English are not many. Teachers who specialize in history and government taught English in the school. Our teacher comes to class rarely.

-My teacher only concentrates on lexis and structure. He did not give us essays, letters, summary and comprehension. He does not know how to teach oral English.

-My mother has divorced my father since when I was the age of 5. I stay with my step mother, who is an illiterate one.

-At home, I don't read and communicate in English. I discuss with my father and my step mother always in English. My parents does not buy English textbooks for me. Father did not even ask about our performance in English at school. I have nobody to communicate with in English. I am always alone.

-After compiling these speeches and analysed them critically , I advise that the influencing of broken homes often affect most of these children , and it adversely affect their performances in the school.

RECOMMENDATION

Parents should avoid anything that can cause separation in the home for the sake of these children. If separation comes children education were mostly affected. Where two elephants fight it is the grass that suffers. There should be harmony between husband and wife in the home, so as to care for the education of their children. The harmony of parent is a success to every Child's education.

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