

## The Problems and Prospects of Teaching of English Language in Ife Central Local Government of Osun State

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Problems simply means factors affecting the teaching of English, or factors militating the teaching of English. It could also, be define as factor hindering or disturbed the teaching of English. Prospects means future optimistic of teaching profession especially the teaching of English language in Secondary Schools. If we compared and juxtapose the two words "Problems and prospects" we could simply deduced that, we are going to discuss in this project the problems that arises in the teaching of English language, on the part of teachers who is to teach, and learners students who are to receive instructions from instructors. The problems does not limits to these two people alone. It could cut across the role of the government societies, parents, non-governmental organization communities, and other international bodies like UNESCO, National University Commission (NUC), publics and private schools, sandwich progammes and other societies affiliated to education. In the case of prospects for teaching profession, it is highly optimistic that if some measures are taken into considerations, there is a great prospect for teaching profession in the areas of English language and other subjects.

In the first instance lets discuss factors responsible for the problems of teaching of English language in schools either private or publics in Ife Central local government of Osun State. A state without education is a novice society, a society that is stagnant not ready to move forward in term of development, science and research. It is estimated in UNESCO research that countries that has enough resources like oil, and other mineral resources could not develop in the areas of human resources management and personnel development, because attention and orientation will be shifted from educating the children, in the country to mining of these natural resources to give immediate money as IGR to the country. That is why most oil producing countries does not have enough or adequate man power and human resources management. That reminds me of one of the factor that affects the teaching of English in our societies. As we all know that English is a lingua Franca the language of communication in ministries and parastatals, we need to take the teaching of English to be more effective and efficient in our secondary schools be it public and private. In addition since English language is use to teach other subjects in the school either science, commercial. Arts and technology we need to make it effective in secondary schools. Our orientation in Nigerian societies has been shifted from learning to grabbing of National Cake, The idea of getting rich quick syndrome, couples with negative attitude to reading culture in our societies due value orientation to join politics and make money quickly has cause havoc in the effective teaching and learning of English in our societies. Charity begins at home. An average Briton often start teaching his child how to speak good English at an early stage. English language should start at the elementary schools. I mean, from pre-nursery, primary gradually to secondary schools. The inability of pupils to learn how to speak English at an early stage will affect them in secondary and tertiary schools. I think it is better to start from bottom to the top and not from top to bottom analysis. Since the foundation is poor, at an early stage, most of our students finds it difficult to speak good English when they get to secondary schools. No wonder you see a graduate of other disciplines find it difficult to communicate effectively in English. It has even come to a stage that, when you see professors in other disciplines apart from English speak a jaw breaking grammar that have concord disagreement. We should know that English is an official language in Nigeria, and whatever you want to do you have to communicate in English. As a result of this you cannot escape English language throughout your lives in your career of choice. If you want to study engineering, lawyer, medicine, accounting and other subjects in the university English language is compulsory as a prerequisite for entering with the university. English and the use of English is compulsory in Jamb for all candidates seeking admission into the universities. That is why it is compulsory for English language learning seriously serious at the beginning of one education. Most of the problems that affect the teaching of English arises from the fact our government, could not train adequate English experts to be teaching English in most of our secondary schools. Imagine a teacher of history teaching English. It is a belief that teachers of arts subjects like History, Government, CRS, Yoruba, French should be able to teach English effectively. This is an erroneous notion since most of these people does not know the structure of English, the syntactic, phonetic phonological aspect of pronouncing English currently. Research have shown that Ghanaian people are good in pronunciation of oral English than any other countries in West Africa including Nigeria. May be English teachers are scarce so says one Professor in one of the Nigerian Univeisties. That is why students fail in English. The question arises who is responsible for the employment of teachers. We have enough graduates of English roaming about the street of Nigeria without being employed. Our government could be blamed on one areas, which I think they are faulty. Like one anonymous professor who put the apportion blame of mass failure of English, on planes of parents and children in schools coupled with the economic status of parents often determined their success in academics are equally right.

Some parents if not many does not value education. They want the government to do everything for them. They equally believe that everything in education is free, which is not. Parents believed that feeding of children in schools is free. Textbooks is free, buying biro and common exercise books are also free. This is not, if at all education is free and the government of the state says no principal should collect a single kobo from students, we need to know that parents have certain areas where they have to subsidize for their children. A child without food cannot concentrate with his studies. Some parents are poor, to take care of their children. Some live below the poverty line with (GDP) to be extremely low. Imagine a student saying she is sponsoring herself when the parent is still living. This is a terrible situation which need to be corrected. Statistic have shown that, children from broken homes hardly concentrated with their studies in school. This is because there is nobody to gear her up to read. There is no reading culture in our society any longer. People are looking for a short cut to make it in life. Yet education is the only legacy you can give to your children. A child without education will sell all your properties after your demise. Most of the English books in the library are now obsolete. The price of books are now skyrocketing to an extent that students could not afford to buy them in the book shops. Government should find means of subsidizing some English textbooks for students. A student without adequate textbook will find his brain to be openly blank like tabular Rasa. It is when the teacher impact knowledge on it that they can get something to fill the brain. Teachers salary is poor, to feed the family. Some teachers are yet to receive the N18,000 minimum pay as stipulated by the government in their respective states. How do you expect them to teach effectively when there is nothing in the stomach. There is no incentive for teachers, unlike in private company. That is why most of our children nowadays are not ready to take up teaching as Professors. It is high time the government and other nongovernmental organizations dabble into the problem of teachers and remunerate them to be commensurate with their jobs, and not to have sympathy them that the reward of teacher is in heaven. Teachers should be given their rewards on earth now. We need to employ good teachers of English to be teaching English as a round peg in a round hole, and not to employ other disciplines to be teaching English. Statistic has even shown that some graduate teachers of English could not master their work very well. All English teachers are suppose to know all aspects of English; be in the English lexis and structure, summary and comprehension, essays and letters, reading culture and so on. The government should organize workshops for teachers of English at all times, so as to make them effective in their job especially by using training on the job and off the job. The constant workshop will allow them to be recent with different technique of teaching English in secondary schools. Some teachers even find it difficult to write lesson notes, scheme of work for each term, diaries of subject on weekly basis. This is a terrible situation. Some school of thought even argued that in the next ten years we could not get teachers of English in our secondary schools again. The hypothesis may be true to some extent and not true, since we cannot eradicate our faculty of education, we will still continue to have teachers of English in our secondary schools. Research have shown that some student teachers of English sent on teaching practice to teach could not speak correct English talkless of impacting good knowledge of English to students they are teaching. This is a sorry sight. These students teachers were future of tomorrow. Now they are nothing to write home about. Some even argued that these students teachers do impact wrong things into the brain of students. What a shame. The issue of NYSC corpsers posted to secondary schools to teach English is suppose to create good impact but rather it is not. Some corpsers who graduated in drama, mass communication, linguistics, language arts without knowledge of English are selected to teach English in some of our secondary schools. This is a sorry sight. May be because there are no teachers of English, that is why they believe that most of these courses are related to English and they should be able to teach English in secondary schools. We should be able to put a round peg in a round hole at all times. Most of our secondary schools have no library, language laboratories, reading Clubs, Press. The literary and debating societies is not functioning. Those teachers to partake in literary to and debating activities were highly depressed because they were not given minimum wage of N18,000 by governors of their states.

Political instability, coupled with frequent change of government does not allow continuity in the policy of education, which often affect the teaching of English in our secondary schools.

Lets quickly talk on the prospect of teaching English in our secondary schools. In this study, we are assuming, projecting being optionistic about future that, teaching of English will regain its lost glory in teaching profession. In this case various bodies like the government, non governmental organizations, parents, parents teachers associations (PTA) should geared up and buckled their belts to make sure English language is effectively taught in secondary schools. Since English is a lingua franca, the language of communication used in various ministries and governmental circle we need to promote the speaking of English fluently among our people. The level of illiteracy is still very low. The percentage of educated people in Nigeria were not up to 10% out of the population of 180 million people. It is a shame that people still communicate in their mother tongue in ministries and parastatals. English is a medium of expression for everybody and we need to enforce it on our people. People should write poems, drama and prose in English. People should dialogue in English. The authority of schools should enforce English to be use at all times and generally among earring students. UNESCO, NUT, NUC and other bodies affiliated with education should make scholarship available for students of English in the university. This will enable us to have enough English teachers in secondary schools. Parents should take

the education of their children seriously serious. They should buy all necessary things like biro, exercise books, uniform, sandals and pocket money to up keep their children. They should not have a wrong notion that everything is free. Nothing is free. The government cannot provide everything the child needs in schools – parents should find time to check their children regularly at schools to know their performance. The (PTA) Parents Teachers Associations should have foot print in each school so as to promote teachers/parents relationship. Parents irrespective of their economic status, back ground should take education of their children as priority and give them all necessary thing needed in schools. Teachers should be alive with their teachings without any diversion, not to waste students time, go to classes regularly to teach, form the lesson notes, write diaries work on weekly basis, and scheme of work for the teaching of English. Study revealed that if all these are taken into consideration mass failure of students in English will be totally reduced in our schools and in Public examination.

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