

THE IMPACT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE EDUCATION IN QUALITY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper examines the concept of language and literature education and the role they can play in making sustainable development of Nigeria. It is only through language one can inform, persuade, and entertain, to dissuade one from acting, to give an account of an action or event in process, to give opinion, make suggestion and make value judgment. It also explains how human language differs from animal language as well as the concepts of education, quality education and sustainable development. Moreover the paper discussed the ways by which qualitative language and literature could be use for sustainable development and it gives recommendation as Federal government should direct all state ministries of education to locate more periods to language subjects. Provision of language laboratories in all secondary schools as well as seminar and workshop should be given to the politician especially representatives and senators on cultural attitude of different people because Nigeria is a multilingual nation.

Key words: Language, Literature, Education, Quality, Sustainable development

Introduction

Language is an old as the human race itself. One cannot tackle anything that has to do with human Endeavour without bringing into the equation language as the source of co – ordination of human activities. As a result of this, Abdullahi (2010) extol the relationship when he says “hardly is there any other phenomenon which resembles human being almost systematically as language”. For this, it is realize that language is a tool through which social, political and economic development could be achieved.

In every human society, some languages: native or second or both have to be in active use in order to transmit instructional knowledge and train skills such as the psychomotor, cognitive as well as affective. Then language and literature have to be a central place in the curriculum of every educational institution.

Education, on the other hand, it is closely related to education. In fact they are two coin sides. Education is seen as a lifelong process which begins from birth to death. It is also seen as a means of socializing an individual to acquire useful and useable knowledge, skills and training in order to become a fully developed useful member in the society.

The Concept of Language

Language is a meaningful medium of sending a message to a receiver; the message may be an ideas, feeling, desires, years, joy or sadness. Language, in general terms, can be an instinctive (as in animal) or a non – instinctive (as in human being) there is what we call animal and human language (Mannir 2001)

Animal Language

Which consist of the use of signs, such as cooing, barking, mewing, bleating, croaking, ticking, howling, chirping etc. These sounds are made by doves, lambs, dogs, frogs, cats, pigs, lions, cooks, respectively. These signs consist of sound or vocalization by the animals or objects. The value of these sign or sound lies in the meaning, which is arbitrarily agreed on by these animals using them. (Chinwe 1999)

Human Language

Is also meaningful way of sending a message from a student to a receiver. Human language makes use of both sign and symbols which have meaning arbitrarily agreed on among the speaker of the language community. Boyer (1996) therefore, as stated that man can both vocalize as well as verbalize. Most of the symbols used by man are words while other are objects or colors'. Man alone can use both signs and symbols. Language can be learn in two different ways.

Language learning: focuses on developing the ability to communicate in a second language with special emphasis on language rules and regulation.

Language learning is a language learned under the umbrella of formed system of education.

Language acquisition: is the process by which human acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language, as well as to produce and use words and sentence to communicate.

Language acquisition usually refers to first – language acquisition which studies infants acquire from their native language. This is distinguished from second – language acquisition which deal with the acquisition of additional language.

In Nigeria, for example, in most sub – urban and rural areas, native language of the child is also the medium of instruction. For this language provision in the National Policy on Education (1988) stipulates that, language of the wider locality should be used as a medium of instruction in the first three years of primary education. Surveys and pilot studies in Nigeria, revealed that this policy is impracticable.

Function of Language

When language learner has mastered how to manipulate the way in which words are put together in his language (the basic structural patterns) and the words, phrases – that is lexical items of a language, he can use language to:-

Inform: ability to impart information to others or to make aware of something.

Persuade: this refers to cause someone to do something through reasoning or argument.

Entertain: is something that hold the attention and interest of an individual or gives pleasure and delight.

Dissuade: persuade – someone not to take a particular action, also to defer a person from a course of action or a purpose by persuasion or exhortation.

Give an account: Details of how a thing happened either an action or event as well as process.

Opinions: is a belief about matters commonly considered to be subjective. It is based on that which is less than absolutely certain and is the result of emotion or interpretation of fact.

Suggestion: is the psychological process by which one person guide the thought, feeling, or behaviour of other. It is also a process by which a physical or mental state is influence by thought or idea.

A value judgment: is a judgment of the rightness or wrongness of something or of the usefulness of something, based on a comparison or other relativity.

Literature

According James (1967) “Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material” from the above definition literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term “is most commonly use to refer to work of the creative imagination include work of poetry, drama, fiction and non – fiction” (James Stell Smith 1967). In view of this literature tradition, however literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact. William (1990) stated that:

“Literature introduce us into new world of experience. We learn about books and literatures. We enjoy the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories and plays and may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with book and may interpret the author’s message. In academic circles, this detecting of the text is often carried out through the use of literary theory, using a mythological, sociological, psychological, historical or other approaches”

Literature is the living sum of symbols, meaning habits, value, institutions, behaviors and social artifacts which characterize a distinctive and identified human population group. It confers upon individual identify as member of some visible community and standards for relating to the environment, for identifying fellow members and strangers, and for deciding what is important and what is not important to them (Guo 2006).

Whatever critical paradigm, we use to discuss and analyze literature, there is still an artistic quality to the looks. Literature is important to us because it speaks to us, it is universal and it affects us. Even when it is ugly, literature is beautiful.

Concept of Education

Education is a concept that has many definitions depending on whether the focus is on formal or informal or on the individual perception.

Kalayi(2009) seen education “as a lifelong process which begins at home from birth till cessation of life”. This is more or less looking at education from an informal point of view. Furthermore,

Akindele (1999) “Whether formal or informal, education is imparted through the medium of language. In formal education, school subjects are coded via the means of language. Teacher teach through it, and pupils learn through it.” However Abdullahi (2010) define education as a means through which aims and habits of a group of people sustain from one generation to the next. Generally, it occurs through any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels or acts. Education is a dynamic instrument of change; it is an instrument per excellence in achieving national development (Humaira,2008).

In its narrow and technical sense, education is a formal process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another.

Quality Education

Quality is never an accident. It has always been the result of higher intention, sincere effort and intelligent mission stalemate and focused as well as skillful implementation (Aminu, 2008)

Quality education as advocated by the National policy on education (2004) implies not just the production of school or college graduates who can perform efficiently and effectively, but those who can function with right type of values and attitudes for the survival of individual and society at large. Anikweze (1989) perceives quality education in a wider perspective to go beyond more schooling a well educated learner possess in addition to evidence of intellectualism, a well adjusted, self – reentrant, intellectualism, a well – adjusted, self – reentrant, productive and sociable personality. He or she is mentally alert, physically and spiritually skilled, attitudinally balanced, morally sound and spiritually committed to the service of God”.

Any country needs sustainable development quality education must to be given to each citizen.

Sustainable Development

The term was first used in 1987 by the world commission on environment and development. It known as the Brundland commission. Nuraddeen (2011) define it as “a development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs”. In view of the above statement, sustainable development as a pattern of resource use that aim to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generation to come.

Kuya (2005) viewed that sustainable is basically concerned with harmonization of needs of humanity and nature and it is based on two major realities:

- i. That human being are crux of development.
- ii. That we are borrowers of the earth for our children and must hand it on to them in reasonable usable shape”.

However, language is a machine of social interaction and we need effective language to function properly in all areas. Like place of work social interaction, fictional literacy etc.

Nuraddeen (2011) “A person is functionally literary when he has acquired knowledge and skill in reaching and writing which unable him to engage effectively in all those activities is which literacy in normally assumed into culture of group”.

Language and culture are the two coin sides which cannot separated from one another. To recap, let’s not forget the warning of Olaofe (1999) who elucidates the role of language in education by saying, “Whenever language is neglected in the process of education, it will lead to a decline in the nations educational standard, which in turn, fail to produce the right type of Nigeria”.

Therefore, language is not just one of the subjects in the school. It is essential mechanism for learning all other subjects for human Endeavour.

Ways by Which Qualitative Language And Literature Education be Used For Sustainable Development.

From the previous discussion, we said quality is never an accident, it has always been the result of higher intention, sincere effort and intelligent, mission statement and focused as well as skillful implementation. Being acquired qualitative language and literature education will help to make sustainable development of any country which Nigeria is not an exception. Here are some ways by which qualitative language and literature education can be use for sustainable development:-

- ❖ **Communication:** Is the exchange and follow of information and ideas from one person to another it involve a sender transmitting an idea, information or telling to a receiver. Effective communication occurs only if the receiver understand the

exact information or idea that the sender intended to transmit many of the problems that occur in an organization are the either the direct result of people failing to communicate and or processes, which leads to confusion and can cause good plan to fail. Auwalu (2008). It is through language individual can coach, coordinate, counsel, evaluate and supervise throughout this process. Also is a chain of understanding that integrate the members of the community / society from top to bottom, bottom to top and side to side.

- ❖ Specialization: According to Webster’s comprehensive dictionary of English language is defined as to concentrate on one particular activity or subject, engage in a specialty “(2010 edition). Without language one cannot specialize in a particular area that will help in developing the nation. For instance, teacher, medical doctor (human or veterinary). Lawyer, engineer, Administrator, Police, soldier etc all are taught/ trained language
- ❖ Needs and Aspiration of the society: These are two words that are closely related. Needs refers to “a deficiency, which if not met adequately creates difficulty in adjustment for the individual as he grow up” And Aspiration means “something that an individual want to achieve or the wish to achieve something “(Mallam & Haggi 2002). By studying the language and culture of society help to understand their basic needs and ambition. These are more related to Politician and government official whom the responsibilities is on them. Providing basic need such as food, water shelter etc and social amenities like electricity, roads, hospital etc and brings sustainable development of the nations.
- ❖ Finding problems and solution: If you don’t know the language and culture of the society it becomes very difficult to understand their problems. Therefore, it helps to find out the problems and gives solution.
- ❖ Tribalism: This refers to “behaviour and attitudes that stem from strong loyal to one’s own trick or social group”. To avoid this language and literature education are highly needed. If you learned one’s language the achievement of 50% of the cordial relationship was covered among other. Likewise literature help to live with them peacefulness. Peace is the greatest mechanism that makes sustainable development of the nation.

Recommendations

This paper recommended the following as the means that will leads the improvement of language and literature which are the pivotal point of sustainable development of the country. The recommendations are:

- ❖ Federal Ministry of education should give circular to all state ministries of education to allocate more periods per week to language subjects.
- ❖ Early lesson hour should be given to language and literature subjects like sciences.

- ❖ The provision of language laboratory in all secondary schools and tertiary institutions will enhance the development of language.
- ❖ Seminars and workshop should be given to the politicians especially representatives and senators on cultural attitude of different people because Nigeria consist varieties of language and culture.
- ❖ Federal government and states should give allowances to language specialist especially academician.
- ❖ Provision should be made at secondary schools for open theater for the purpose of literature and literary practice.

Conclusion

Conclusively, language is a phenomenon or tool through which social, political and economic development could be achieved. Education on the other side is closely related to language. In fact, they are two sides of a coin. Education is seen as long life process which begins from birth to death. While through language and literature can understand himself and others.

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