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**TÍTULO:** Características fonéticas, sintácticas, semánticas y etimológicas de la versión territorial del idioma inglés de Nigeria.

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**RESUMEN:** El artículo trata sobre las características clave fonéticas, sintácticas, semánticas y etimológicas que funcionan en la versión territorial del idioma inglés de Nigeria. El grupo de autores analiza los factores históricos más importantes que influyeron enormemente en el proceso de formación de los ingleses de Nigeria. Teniendo en cuenta las características lingüísticas y culturales de la versión territorial del idioma inglés de Nigeria, las características específicas de la elección de ciertos lexemas de diferentes grupos temáticos se identifican en el trabajo dado.

**PALABRAS CLAVES:** Globalización, contactos lingüísticos, anglofonía, nigeria inglés, fonética, sintáctica.

**TITLE:** Phonetic, Syntactical, Semantic and Etymological features of the territorial version of the English Language of Nigeria.

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**ABSTRACT:** The article deals with the key phonetic, syntactic, semantic and etymological features functioning in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria. The group of authors analyzes the most important historical factors that made huge influence on the process of Nigeria English formation. Taking into consideration the linguistic and cultural features of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria the specific features of the choice of certain lexemes of different thematic groups are identified in the given work.

**KEY WORDS:** Globalization, Anglophonia, Nigeria English, phonetic, syntactic.

**INTRODUCTION.**

The second half of the twentieth century is characterized by a global change in the linguistic situation of the world, which is associated with the spread of English as a language of intercultural communication. As an international language, English is no longer tied to one particular culture or nation. The development of the English language in the modern world is less determined to the people whose native language is English (Baghana, 2003: 76).

Today, English is the third native language in the world after Chinese and Spanish, and is official not only in the UK, the USA, Australia, Ireland, Canada, Malta, New Zealand, but also is used as an official in some Asian countries, as India, Pakistan, Africa, mostly former colonies of the British Empire, members of the Commonwealth of Nations, while the majority of the population of these countries are native speakers of other languages. English speakers in linguistics are called Anglophones.

Lexical, pronunciation and grammatical features of the speech of English speakers in those countries where it has the status of the state (official), are United in the concept of national versions of the English language. In this case, we are talking about those countries where for the majority of the population English is their native language. In this regard, it is customary to distinguish British, American (USA), Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Englishes. Within these countries (national variants) the speech of the speakers is actually also heterogeneous, it is divided into regional and local variants, dialects, territorial and social dialects, but also often has common differences from the national variants of other countries (Falola, 2009: 176).

In our work, the analysis was made of the linguistic-cultural and semantic-etymological features of the lexical composition of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria.

## **DEVELOPMENT.**

### **Methods.**

This article is based on the systemic approach to the interdisciplinary analysis. Due to the basis of cross-disciplinary approach we take into consideration the anthropocentric factor which depends on the peculiarities of cross-cultural communication in contact languages' cooperation. Such methods as linguistic and non-linguistic information and intercultural analyses are paid special attention to in through the prism of languages correlations.

## **Results and discussions.**

The aim of the work is to identify the semantic and etymological characteristics of the lexical composition of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria in the era of globalization.

The purpose of the work defines the range of its tasks:

- To study the historical patterns of formation of the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria.
- To consider the linguistic and cultural features of the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria.
- To identify the specifics of the choice of certain lexemes of the daily life of Nigerians within the territorial version of the language.

The relevance of this article is seen in the discussion of theoretical and practical problems on the material of territorial version of the English language in Nigeria. The purpose of this article, in practical terms, is to identify the semantic and etymological features of the Nigerian English vocabulary of different thematic groups presenting everyday life of Nigerians.

In the works of modern researchers there is a significant variability of the English language in the modern world. As a starting point of the analyses, we take the well-known model proposed in the middle of 1980s in the works by B. Kachru, which presents three circles of English:

- The inner circle, which includes countries where English is the first (most often official) or the dominant language, for example in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- The external circle, covering countries where the English due to certain historical, political, economic factors for a long time performed institutional functions and currently plays an important role in education, public administration, culture, for example in India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, etc.

- The expanding circle in which there are countries where English has never been an official language, but performs certain functions, focusing mainly on foreign relations, and is studied as a foreign language, as in Russia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Nepal, etc. (Kachru, 2006: 209-218).

But the language policy today is changing very quickly. There is no doubt about the position of the countries of the inner circle according to the theory of Kachru, these are States where English is the state and native to the vast majority of the population. However, there are already fewer native English speakers in the United Kingdom and the United States – due to the increase in the number of immigrants for whom English remains the second language, i.e. these users are not those who set the language norm. In the countries of the outer circle – the former British colonies – English has historically served and continues to serve as the second official language (India, Singapore, Philippines, Tanzania, etc.), the language policy today is also changing (Klockov, 2002: 17). If 30-40 years ago in these countries the middle-class representatives were practically bilinguals, today this situation has changed. But in the third circle of the given theory has the greatest number of discursive questions today as it is characterized as the “rapid pace” (Voloshina, 2017: 130-131). There was a whole industry of teaching English, which is a kind of pass into the world of business, science, innovative technologies, politics.

For the first time in history, the number of non-native speakers is three times higher than the number of native speakers among people who speak a particular language. In this regard, many teachers and even linguists believe that there is no need to force students to imitate speech patterns of native speakers, if you can do the approximation, which does not lead to a violation of the act of communication (Mair, 2003: 198-217).

Moreover, there are varieties of Englishes today (New Englishes) like Hinglish (Hindi+English) in India, Japlish (Japanese+English) in Japan, Singlish and Chinglish (Chinese+Malay and Chinese+English) in China, Englog (Tagalog+English) in the Philippines, Spanglish (Spanish+English) in Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States (Mc.Arthur, 1998: 76-81).

In South Africa, a certain part of the population with a high educational level and social status is accepted to speak English with the inclusion of elements of the native language. This is considered as a manifestation of patriotism and culture of antiapartheid: "pure" English language is the language of the colonizers, the native language is one of the contact languages of the southern part of the African continent (Falola, 2009: 108-112). Taking into consideration, New Englishes are not just pidgins, but native languages for several generations, which grew up in a kind of linguistic culture, the status of "native English-speaking individuals" is still hot to discuss.

In the given article, we analyze the peculiarities of phonetic, syntactic, semantic and etymological features of one of the greatest countries of African Continent as Nigeria.

It is very difficult to define a single cultural identity of Nigeria, as this country is a mixture of up to 250 ethnical and linguistic groups, a better idea is to identify three main ethnic groups of Nigeria, which belong to the majority of the population of the country: Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo (Crystal, 2003: 76-79).

It should be noted, most of the major cities of Nigeria have a population of all three ethnic groups, about a third of Nigerians belong to minority groups, including such groups as Tiwi, Nupe, igala, Jukun, Itsekiri, Urhobo, Ibibio (Baghana et al. 2018: 30).

Currently, English is the official language in most African States, former colonies of Great Britain. Variants of English in countries where it has official status and is not native to any ethnic group are called "World Englishes" or "New Englishes" (Katchru, 2006: 102-108).

Despite the fact that more than 200 languages are spoken in Nigeria, the official language is English. Most modern companies, firms, schools and universities today speak English, but outside of them, most Nigerians prefer to speak local languages or "Pidgin English". Indigenous languages of the peoples of Nigeria include Bantu, Chadian, Niger-Congo. The Niger-Congo languages include Edo, Igbo, Ijo (Ison) and Yoruba. In addition, many languages spoken in Nigeria also have dialects, for example, Yoruba is the indigenous language for the dialects of Igala and Itsekiri (Langlo, 2018: 10).

In the process of creation of dictionaries of indigenous African languages, as a rule, the key point is given to the written recorded sources, it is not possible to study the written sources of the English language in Nigeria due to the fact that many data depend on oral sources and thus there is no accurate justification for their written record (Baghana, et al. 2018: 29).

The language of Newspapers and Magazines in Nigeria is based on the rules of the generally accepted norms of "Standard English" with some elements of "Pidgin English". Certain forms, such as "*done*" (Participle I from the verb "to do") have in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria elliptical form "*don*". The lexeme "*rubber*" has phonetic differences from the analogue of the classical British pronunciation and is pronounced as *roba* or *ruba* depending on various social and linguistic factors (Blench, 2005: 18).

In modern linguistics, it is customary to distinguish Nigerian English from Pidgin English, although it is impossible to establish a clear boundary between the two languages. For example, the lexeme "*child*" for any English Pidgin is expressed in the form of "*pickin*", while the verb "*to know*" is transmitted using "*sabi*".

Another specific feature of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is the use of auxiliary verbs along with the main verbs, for example:

- *done*

*He done go* (Nigerian English) - *He went* (Pidgin English)

• *use to*

*He use to come her* (Nigerian English) – *He comes here regularly* (Pidgin English) (Langlo, 2018: 6).

The territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is also characterized by phonetic and spelling peculiarities that differ from the standard norms typical for the classical English language.

Examples:

*She feels her life to be sleeping away from her finger.*

In British English (Standard English), the lexeme *sleeping* is characterized by the pronunciation of a long vowel sound (*i:*), in turn, for the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, this sound is pronounced briefly (*i*). If the British English pronounce the short sound of (*i*), in similar words, the territorial variant of the English language Nigeria considering the sound is long (*i:*).

The standard British English rules have the pronunciation norm for sounds (*ê*) or (*ô*) in the pronunciation of the works lexeme, while in the territorial English version of Nigeria this sound, due to the fusion of the two sounds, will be pronounced as a short vowel (*o*) (Langlo, 2018: 11).

The syntax of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria also has its own characteristics. Negation *in* a sentence is transmitted using the negative particle *never*, which is at the beginning of the sentence, for example:

*Never you be envious of that which belongs to another!* – *You must not be envious to the thing which belongs to another person!* - *"You should not be jealous of what belongs to another person!"*(Langlo, 2018: 18).

The separation issue in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is formed by the addition of negative particles *oo* and *óóó* depending on the emotional attitude to what is happening.

In the case where the author expresses emotions of strong indignation, discontent, irritation towards

someone or something, the negative particle *óóó* is placed before the statement of the author, for example:

*They promised to pay on Tuesday. Ooo! And last month they were a week late! - "They promised to pay on Tuesday! Last year, they also delayed payment by a week "* (Langlo, 2018: 18).

In the analyzed example, the negative particle *óóó* precedes the author's irritation, connected with the fact, that the clients delayed payment of the debt again, as in the previous year.

If the negative sentence the particle *oo* expresses the hope for a quick resolution of the problem with a slight discontent, therefore it is put at the beginning of the statement, for example:

*I think I would do it, oo! Go register now, oo! - I think I'll do it! Sign up now!* (Langlo, 2018: 8).

In the given example, we observe the initial location of the negative particle *oo*, as the author hopes for the speedy implementation of actions.

When native English speakers attempt to characterize Nigerian English, it becomes apparent that the personal perception of Nigerians plays an important role in the use of certain lexical means to express certain traditions or customs, the elements of everyday life. For example, for Nigerian Newspapers it is typical to use the phrase "*men of the underworld*" to refer to criminals in the media, which can hardly be noted in a modern British newspaper, as this expression is archaic. However, the phrase in an interrogative form is perfectly understandable for a standard English speaker and the component of the analyzed expression does not show any significant lexical deviation from their language norm (Blench, 2005: 14)

In our study, some attention is paid to the cultural and semantic-etymological characteristics of the vocabulary of the thematic groups "Food", "Drinks", "Kitchen appliances" of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria.

In the Nigerian English dictionary of Tom Langlo, we find the following definitions of the lexeme "food": "1. any substance consumed to provide nutritional support for an organization, 2. applies to starchy staples (f.e. I need food, but not snacks – I want a full meal and not eat") (Blench, 2005: 8).

Daily Nigerian food often consists of two main components: a side dish and a main dish in the form of vegetables and meat or fish in a sauce. Garnish is a fresh dish, which is usually prepared from Yams flour. Yam garnish, porridge consistency, can have a white color, and it is the so-called *Yiyang*, or in English *pounded yam*, and can be brown, in this case we are talking about *brown Amala* (*Amala*, *àmàlà*).

Another integral component of the cuisine of West Africa is cassava. Cassava plant in its shape and taste resembles yams, but has a much smaller size. Flour from cassava is called *Harry* (*garri*), it is often used to cook porridge side dish from it called *Eba* (*ẹbà*).

Rice in Nigeria is a typical dish of national cuisine, especially the famous local rice variety is *ofada*, from which the stew is prepared, so called *ofada stew*, while *rice ofada* is an expensive product. An example of a festive rice dish is the national dish of Nigeria *jollof rice* -rice cooked with tomatoes and spices, served with chunks of meat at parties (Langlo, 2018: 14).

The main dish that complements *amale*, *ebe* or *ofada* in Nigerian cuisine is always a special spicy dish, while, for example, even Ethiopian food is not as spicy as in Nigeria, and in neighboring Ghana, the national cuisine is much less spicy.

The main dish in Nigeria is called *soup*, but the meaning of this word has nothing to do with European or Russian. Nigerian soup, as a rule, has a much thicker consistency, the method of preparing is in the process of extinguishing, in contrast to the Russian method - boiling. There are great varieties of soups in the national cuisine of Nigeria depending on regions and tribes. The soup can be prepared from different variations of vegetables and types of fish and meat.

Examples:

- *Congo Meat soup* – soup made from the Giant African snails,
- *Crayfish soup* - soup made of shrimp soup and prawns»,
- *Cowleg soup* – soup made of a cow "veal soup»,
- *Croaker* – sea-fish soup – "soup of sea fish»,
- *Grasseater* – fish soup (came from Hausa) (Langlo, 2018: 7-11),
- *Pepper soup* – type of soup made with meat or fish and containing chili pepper but no oil,
- *Peprish* – peppery soup (Langlo, 2018: 20).

A peculiar feature in our opinion is the choice of the verb used to express the process of eating soup in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, which is recorded in the dictionary of Tom Langlo as "*lick soup*". In his dictionary, the author refers to the following example:

*While eating with me, you are licking the soup, but I am eating the porridge* (Langlo, 2018: 15).

The soup in Nigeria is customary served with a special sauce "*draw* – a sticky sauce made from vegetables such as okra" (Langlo, 2018: 8).

Together with the draw sauce, dried baobab leaves are often served, which are called *kuka* (Langlo, 2018: 15).

Lexical definitions of "*Drinks*" of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is represented by the following morphemes.

Examples:

- *Palm wine* is the sap tapped from the terminal bud of various palms, which is used as a drink,
- *Pami* – palm wine,
- *Pito* – local beer brewed from sorghum, millet,
- *Ogogoro* – locally-distilled alcohol (Langlo, 2018: 20-21).

The lexical series of the thematic group "*kitchen appliances*" in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria has its own specific features; for example, the definition *go to hell* is the name to a special device or a stick with which fruits are taken out. The etymology of this expression has religious grounds, the process of collecting fruit in Nigeria is compared with the fate of sinners, who were punished by the devil ("*beat with a stick*" – used hooked sticks to drag down sinner) (Langlo, 2018: 8). The lexeme "*card*" in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria has the meaning "*fish drying rack*" – a place for drying fish (Langlo, 2018: 8).

The process of payment for food or services for food is expressed by the token "*feeding*" (money for food).

The lexical series of the thematic group "*place of food*" in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is represented by the following lexemes:

- *canteen* – supermarket or large grocery store,
- *buka* - street restaurant (Langlo, 2018: 3-8).

## **CONCLUSIONS.**

To sum it all, English is the official language of Nigeria, this language was chosen as the official in order to maintain the cultural and linguistic unity of the country. Despite the fact that the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria remains a special prerogative of the urban elite of the nation, gradually it makes its way to the province. In addition to the territorial version of the English language, which a large number of the country's population speak at a fairly good level, in everyday life common local languages are also used, these are Edo, Adavama Fulfulde, Efik, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and others. As a rule, the people of Nigeria know their native language and official.

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