CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Interference is a phenomenon that has existed and will continue to exist as long as the world remains multilingual. Majority of the countries of the world are multilingual and there are only rare occasion where polyglot is excellently prominent in all the languages he/she speaks. The possibility that one of the languages would influence the other languages the polyglots speak is very high.

Hence, interference is a speaker or writer's application of the knowledge of their native language to a second language. She further enunciates that the effect of interference is evident in any aspect of language; accent, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, etc.(Dwinastiti, 2013)

Interference is usually spoken about as a source of errors also known as negative transfer but where the pertinent features of both languages are one and the same; it is referred to as positive transfer. The degree of the difference between both languages determines the negativity or positivity of the interference.

Ntekim- Rex (2009) further explains the circumstances that could make interference either positive or negative. Interference is positive when the transfer aids second language learning. It is negative when the transfer obstructs second language learning and causes a form of confusion while learning. Mother tongue is learnt by emulation, but when an L2 learner encounters difficulties during the process of acquiring the rules of the target language, they apply the knowledge of their native language to understand the target language. Dulay et al (1982) opines

that there are positive and negative transfers. The former occurs when the second language and the native language exhibit similar features that aid the understanding of the target language. While the latter occurs when certain features of a learner's native language is different from the features of the target language and hinders understanding of the proper use of the target language. He explains further that the term 'interference' is solely used as a reference to negative transfers.

Interference is a continuous phenomenon that distinguishes native speakers of English from non-native speakers of English all over the world.

Following Adeleye (2019) who explained interference to be the impact a language variety has on another language as a result of speaking both languages as a bilingual, it has become expedient to examine and analyze the pronunciation of English words and construction of English sentences of Nigerian Celebrities also to examine their choices of language use and how it affects communication.

Language being a gift is used as a tool for expression which consists of sub skills for proper and effective communication i.e. listening skill, writing skill, speaking skill and reading skill. Language is a major means of organizing one's experiences and thoughts. Language is a very unique and dynamic entity, and as such this research study is focused on three languages-Yoruba, Igbo and English.

Odutola (2019) expounds that Yoruba speakers occupies the Southwest region of Nigeria in states such as Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Lagos, Kogi, Kwara, Ondo, Ekiti and so on. Yoruba is spoken by approximately 30 million people and is not only spoken in Nigeria but other neighbouring

countries such as the Republic of Benin and Togo. Yoruba is a tonal language and it is paramount to take note of the tones in Yoruba. In Yoruba, there are three basic tones of different pitch levels usually identified by stress mark (ˋ) and (ˊ) in writing.

Igbo language is majorly spoken in the Eastern part of Nigeria. It is categorized under the Niger-Congo language and is related to the Kwa sub-group in the Sub-Saharan Africa.(Micheal Widjaja 2000). Jaspers (2011) elucidates that Igbo is a contrastive tonal language (just like most African languages), high and low tones and they perform both semantic and grammatical functions. The emphasis on the tone of certain words produces different meanings e.g. the word *'isi'* could have four different meanings depending on the location of the pitch- ìsì-blindness, isì-smell, isi-head, isí-to cook.

On the one hand, Mercy Eke hails from Imo state and she spent most of her time in Imo state. She attended Egbu girls' secondary school in Owerri, the capital of Imo state and acquired tertiary education in Imo State University and graduated in 2014 and then came to Lagos.

On the other hand, Odunlade Adekola is a prominent Yoruba actor and has starred in several Nigerian English movies. He hails from Ekiti state but grew up and acquired primary and secondary education in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

Adeleye (2019) elucidates that English gives its speakers admiration and a feeling of accomplishment. To buttress the statement above, Anthony (2008) asserts that English language has a willingness to accommodate new words, even from different languages. Unfortunately, a large number of speakers have been left with the unsuccessful use of the language in a country like Nigeria; where English is not the native language or L1. Oyedokun-Alli (2014), as cited by

Adeleye (2019) is of the opinion that English is the most precious benefits Nigerian colonial masters left behind; it can be described as a global language.

1.2 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Interference is a continuous phenomenon. As long as there are bilinguals and polyglots in the world, interference would continue to be a disadvantage to communicators. It has been observed that several celebrities in Nigeria have transferred the linguistic features of their native languages to their spoken English.

In the Yoruba sound structure, certain English sounds such as /ʧ/,/Ө/, /p/,/ð/,/ɜ:/,/ə/ are absent and are therefore not properly vocalized by the speakers of Yoruba while they speak English. For instance, the sound /ð/ in the word *'this'* is popularly pronounced by Yoruba and even Igbo speakers as /d/ the instead of /ðɪs/, it is pronounced as /dɪs/.

The defense of interference on Spoken English is that a person masters the language he is exposed to as a child and transfers the knowledge of his First language to his second language which for this study is English. These properties are seen in sentence construction, pronunciation of English words, and the misplacement of stress on English words by Yoruba and Igbo speakers.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

At the end of the study, the following is sought to be achieved:

1. To identify Yoruba and Igbo interference in the spoken English of Nigerian celebrities.

2. To point out the negative transfers from Yoruba and Igbo languages to spoken English.

3. To correct mispronunciation and wrong construction of English words and sentences as a result of negative transfers from speakers of Yoruba and Igbo speakers.

4. To examine the Odunlade Adekola's use of language as a resource.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research is all about finding answers to questions that prey on the mind of a person and not just anyone but someone who wants to find the cause of the problem and seeks to proffer solutions to the problem. Research questions are guides to finding answers to questions that are on the mind of the researcher. Apart from being the specific statements to be dig deep on, they are road maps and tour guides on the journey of research.

For this study, the problem is the effect of mother tongue interference on the spoken English of Nigerian celebrities. The following are the questions that this research seeks answers to:

1. What are the errors caused by Yoruba and Igbo interference in the spoken English of Odunlade Adekola and Mercy Eke in Nigeria?

2. How does Yoruba and Igbo mother tongue interference feature in the spoken English of Odunlade Adekola and Mercy Eke?

3. Do these errors hinder or enhance communication?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Bloomfield (1933) as cited by Senayon (2019) posits that bilingualism is native-like control of two languages. English language has risen to the point of utmost importance and it has also become a criterion for social and global relevance.

This study doesn't aim at degrading bilinguals whose speeches are characterized by transference of the linguistic features of their native languages; rather it seeks to add to body of existing knowledge and to make an effort to push the country to the point of having native-like control of English language for increased recognition globally.

This study will prove to be a very reliable and useful source of literature for other researchers, students and any other non-academics who have few questions or needs clarifications on the subject of interference.

1.6 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF STUDY

The researcher could not go beyond the two selected celebrities as they are the only ones with enough resources on the internet that has replaced having a one on one conversation with the celebrities.

Two languages other than English are being examined which are Yoruba and Igbo. The researcher does not understand Igbo which has made the study a bit difficult because it is equivalent to learning another language.

The scopes of this study as mentioned earlier are two prominent celebrities in the entertainment industry. The first case study is Odunlade Adekola who is a Yoruba actor and

has starred in prominent English movies. The other case study is Mercy Eke, the winner of the 2019 *Big Brother Naija show,* who currently owns a reality TV show titled The Mercy and Ike show.

Regardless of these factors that have posed as limitations, this study is more than capable of adding positively to the body of existing knowledge and can be a bedrock for other researchers who intend to carry out studies that are synonymous to this topic.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Interference

Interference refers to errors in a learner's use of a foreign language that can be traced to the individuals' first language. It occurs when the comprehension of an individual's L1 or native language has an impact on his L2. Interference is exclusively used to refer to negative transfers.

Yoruba

It is a language spoken by over 30 million people in Nigeria and some other countries like Togo and the Republic of Benin. It also has its descents in Haiti and some other African countries whose citizens were taken during the slave trade. It is a tonal language and it is spoken majorly in Nigeria and Benin.

Igbo

Igbo is a contrastive tonal language (just like most African languages), high and low tones and they perform both semantic and grammatical functions. The emphasis on the tone of certain words produces different meanings. It is spoken in southern Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and a large chunk of Igbo has made up the Jamaican language.

Celebrity

A celebrity is someone who has made a name for him\herself in the entertainment or the business industry. A celebrity is also known as an individual that is celebrated and recognized globally or locally.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

To get a better insight into this study, the basic concepts that brought about this study are to be examined. In this light, the following concepts are to be explored: Interference, language, Spoken English, the structure of Yoruba language and that of Igbo language. The factors responsible for interference will also be considered.

2.1.1 Interference

Aridem (2016) defines interference as one of the sources of error, when the important characteristics of both languages tally; this result in a correct production of the target language otherwise known as positive transfer. Aridem further explains interference as either positive or negative transfers of the knowledge of a language into the performance of the other language. Patrick et al (2013) as cited by Aridem (2017) expounds that negative transfer is concerned with the difficulties faced on using the target language which is traced back to the mother tongue. Positive transfers refer to the ease in learning the second language as a result of the similarities in certain features of the mother tongue and the second language. Bada (2001) explained that interference contains the tendency of transferring the rules of a learner's native language to the foreign language which could be a second or a third language.

From the standpoint of psycholinguistics, interference is seen as negative transfers of linguistic habits and skills from the mother tongue to another foreign language. From the linguistics point of view, Lekova (2010) explained that interference is an interaction or a change in linguistic

structures and structural elements which appears to be a deviation from linguistic norms of language both orally and in writing.

Adegbite and Akindele (2005) posit that "Interference occurs linguistically in a way that two different languages intersect and the linguistic system of one of the languages which is usually the native language is transferred into the production of the other language." The variety of English language used in the entertainment industry has certain peculiarities. These features are noticeable in mother tongue interference, borrowed words and coinages. The coinages and transfers used in the entertainment industry will be fully examined in subsequent section of this study.

Stevens (1965) as cited by Adeleye (2019) remarks:

> In speaking a foreign language, we commonly use not the sound of that language,
>
> but those sounds of their mother tongue which we imagine being equivalent to the
>
> sound of the foreign language.

This implies that an average Yoruba or Igbo speaker of English usually has Yoruba or Igbo language as the supporting structure of his English phonetic and phonology inventory. Awonusi (2009) supports Stevens when he said:

> Nigerians commonly use the sounds of their native languages
>
> (particularly the widely spoken languages like Hausa, Igbo,
>
> and Yoruba) when speaking English especially for sounds
>
> not found or available in the native or indigenous languages.

In other words, we can safely assert that Yoruba or Igbo speakers of English language draw on the sound system of Yoruba or Igbo to understand and pronounce phonemes of English.

2.1.1.1 Types of Interference

Following Ntekim-Rex (2009), there are three types of linguistic transfers:

1. **Phonic Interference**

This is concerned with the production of speech sounds. It is a common one and it is one of the major features that differentiate the variety of English all over the world. In other words, it is the transfer of the rules that govern speech production in a prevalent speech community to the sound system of the target language.

E.g: Finger /ˈfɪŋgə/ is usually pronounced by a large population of Nigerian speakers of English as /ˈfɪŋgaː/.

Also, a large of number of languages in Nigeria doesn't have consonant clusters; therefore vowel sounds are used to separate the clusters. For instance, the word 'screwdriver' would be pronounced as /sukudrafa/ (Francis 2011).

Nwaenyi (2010:20) explained that Igbo speakers acquire accent and features of their language which ends up as a stumbling block to learning or in the case of this study speaking English correctly or any other language other than their L1 which would be their L2. She goes further elucidates that Igbo speakers pronounce words the way they are written but it isn't the same for English language. Words like 'psychology', 'aura', 'philosophy' and a host of others are not pronounced the way they are spelt in English language.

2. Grammatical Interference

It is the influence of the first language on the second language in terms of word order, use of pronouns and determinants, tense and mood (Thirumalai 2008).

Ntekim-Rex (2009) elucidates that interference at this level of language occurs as a result of "grammatical competence of the bilingual". In other words, the difference between the amount of knowledge a bilingual has of both languages that he/she speaks.

Jaspers (2011) enunciates that a native speaker of Igbo will have issues with the appropriate tense to use thereby saying something like "I wasn't having money" instead of "I had no money", "I have seen him yesterday" instead of "I saw him yesterday". An Igbo speaker of English would utter these sentences because he is more competent in the grammar of his language than he is in the grammar of English language. A Yoruba speaker of English can say "My stomach is sweet" which is a direct translation of the Yoruba sentence "Inu mi dun" instead of "I am happy", "They are calling you" which is a direct translation of the Yoruba sentence "won pe e/yin" instead of "your attention is needed".

Lexical Interference

Dweik and Othman (2017) explain that interference at this level is caused by literal translation of lexicon from the L1 to L2. A bilingual is faced with choices during a conversation and the degree of their knowledge of the language in use would affect the choices of their words. Interference as earlier stated would occur if the speaker lacks basic knowledge of the language in use. There are some words in Nigerian languages that do not have clear equivalents in the second language e.g. agbada, eba, akpu, fufu. Another example is coinages such as long-leg, free and fair, money bag,

timbre and caliber, and many more. In Nigeria, the word 'mother, 'father', 'brother', sister' and other words used to refer to a particular people who are related to the speaker by blood, are also used to refer to people who are older and are not related to the speaker but are considered worthy to be referred to in that manner.

2.1.2 Language

Language is a system of conventional, arbitrary vocal or written symbols used by a group of people to communicate and express their thoughts. Sapir (1921) posits that language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by a means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Debbyshire (1967) cited by sees language as "a kind of means of communication among human beings". It is therefore safe to conclude that language is majorly and solely structured for humans. Chomsky (1957) defines language as "a set of finite or infinite sentences, constructed out of a finite set of elements." In other words, the sentences uttered and produced are either limited or unlimited depending on the speaker and the context but are made from limited elements.

According to Noam Chomsky, every child is born with an ability to learn and acquire the language of his immediate environment even if the child isn't formally taught the language of his environment. He refers to this ability as Language Acquisition Device (LAD) which is located in the brain. Language is the vehicle of all forms of communication either verbally, written or bodily expressions.

2.1.3   English Language

English language belongs to the Indo-European family. It originated from the West Germanic tribes that invaded England in 5th AD. It is the major language spoken in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and over fifty more countries. Nigeria is one of so many other countries that speak English as a second language.

English language has risen in prominence all over the world. Hunjo (2002) cited by Adeleye (2019) asserts that English language in Nigeria is more prestigious than all her indigenous languages. It is the language of trade, the medium of instruction in schools; it is the language of commerce, it is a criterion for employment in the country. English language is the language of the government. In other words, it is the official language of the country hence; it is used for all the activities at all the levels of government. English language is also the lingua franca in Nigeria. Nigeria is a heterogeneous country; English language serves as a tool that allows different people who speak different language cohabit.

English language has risen to prominence, not just in Nigeria but in the whole world.

2.1.4   Yoruba Language

Yoruba is a member of the Niger-Congo family. It is spoken in Central and South Africa. It is spoken by about 19 million people in Nigeria and by 22 million people speaks Yoruba in the world. It is majorly spoken in the South Western part of Nigeria. Examples of states that in Nigeria that majorly speak Yoruba are Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Kwara, Osun. Examples of countries that speak Yoruba are Togo, Benin Republic and a host of others.

Like every other language, Yoruba has several dialects and has three basic tones of different pitch levels and diacritic marks are placed on and with certain letters to produce their distinct sounds. Yoruba has 7 oral vowels and 5 nasal vowels. The Yoruba alphabet doesn't contain the letters c, q, v, x, and z.

All the vowels in Yoruba are pronounced short. Therefore a Yoruba- English speaker finds it difficult to pronounce long vowels in English words. Yoruba language doesn't permit consonant clusters; the sounds are either omitted or indistinct when pronounced by a Yoruba- English speaker. Francis (2011) elucidates that at the syllabic level, vowels are added to words with consonant clusters therefore a word like 'school' would usually be pronounced as /su/ku/lu.

Onike (2009) explained that Yoruba is tonal and syllable timed while English is intonal and stress timed i.e. every word in Yoruba language is stressed, therefore Yoruba- English speakers transfer this attribute of Yoruba to English. A typical example is how Yoruba-English speakers pronounce the word character as CHARACTER or Mary as MARY. This example is a typical example of wrong placement of stress.

The Yoruba language doesn't have definite or indefinite articles. Yoruba-English speakers have a difficulty with pronoun\gender and quantifiers. They often confuse regular endings and the use of auxiliaries in the simple present and past tense. E.g. I was having no money (Swan and Smith 2001)

2.1.5 Igbo Language

It is a member of the Niger-Congo language family in the Benue-Cingo group. It is one of the languages widely spoken in the West Africa. It is majorly spoken in the Eastern parts of Nigeria in stated like Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Imo, North east of Delta, and South east of Rivers state.

It is the language of trade and commerce in the above mentioned part of Nigeria. It is taught at all levels of learning in the educational sector in Eastern Nigeria.

The Igbo language is made up of eight vowels and thirty consonants. The language has just two tones i.e. high and low tones. It doesn't allow consonant clusters and consonants at the final position of a word. Igbo-English speakers often lengthen the vowel sounds in English words but it doesn't change the meaning of those words. They do that to aid easy production of the English word.

2.2 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR LANGUAGE INTERFERENCE

Following Adeleye (2019), the following are the causes of language interference:

1. The speaker's background on bilingualism

A speaker is usually affected by hus L1 and the target language. He is affected more by his L1 during the production of sentences in the target language. For instance, the statement 'If they born you well' is a direct translation of the Yoruba sentence 'T' 'on ba bi e da'. When an Igbo speaker of English says 'Do you want to speak to Teacher's a one can deduce that it is a direct translation of an Igbo sentence because the grammar of Igbo packs definite and indefinite articles and they often use these articles wrongly.

2. Unwillingness towards the target language

When a learner is not motivated, interference could occur. After all, the learner was forced to learn the target and is therefore not affected by his wrong use of the language.

3. Limited vocabularies of the target language

Adeleye (2019) opines that some languages have their vocabularies from words of surroundings connected to life. Therefore, a learner of another language would come across these new words that do not have equivalents in his own language. The more a person practices the target language the more proficient he becomes in the target language. For instance in Igbo language, there is no equivalent for the word 'blanket', the same goes for Yoruba.

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study will review three theories and one of these would be selected for the relevance of this study. They are: Behaviourist theory, Error Analysis, Systemic Functional Grammar and Contrastive Analysis.

2.3.1 Systemic Functional Grammar

Systemic Functional Grammar is a new approach to language introduced by Michael K.A. Halliday in 1985 (Bavali and Sadighi, 2008). It is radically different from the traditional view of language, where language is seen as a set of rules. SFG following Sadighi and Bavali (2008) sees language as a resource for making meaning. Sadighi and Bavali (2008) cite Halliday and Matthiessen (1999:3) as they assert that:

For the task of constructing such a meaning base, we shall use systemic grammar. A systemic grammar is one of the functional grammars which mean (among other things) that it is semantically motivated or natural. In contradistinction to formal grammars which are autonomous and therefore semantically arbitrary. In a systemic grammar, every category (and category is used here in the general sense of an organizing theoretical concept not in the narrower sense of 'calss' as in formal grammar) is based on meaning: it has a semantic as well as a formal, lexico-grammtical reactance.

Halliday and Matthiessen (1999) further posit that:

At this stage of history, we need a richer theory of grammar to meet the challenges of the age of information e.g. in education and in computation (Cited by Bavali and Sadighi, 2008).

Wael (2016) recorded that Halliday was more concerned about the function of sentences or the purpose behind a writer's sentence. Wael wrote that Halliday believed that language should be described with many functions, without deep structures (Wael 2016:3).

In SFG, the clause instead of the sentence is the unit used in analysis, in which three kinds of structures are combined. These structures express a designated semantic organization, charted onto each otherto produce a single word. These structures are called Meta-functions. (Bavali and Sadighi 2008:5)

Following Bavali and Sadighi (2008) these meta-functions are:

i. Interpersonal Meta-function

From its name, we can conclude that this meta-function concerns itself with the relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor. It is concerned with the grammatical resources for executing social roles generally and in speeches, especially in dialogues. The foundation of the semantic function is formed as Subject, Finite, Predicator, and Complement.

ii. Ideational Meta-Function

Ideational meta-function is concerned with the act of forming ideas as grammatical resources for recording and explaining our experiences of the world within us and in our environment. It is studied in terms of the choice between six processes.

As earlier mentioned, the clause is the unit of analysis in SFG therefore the clause is a means of representing patterns of experience, often used by the speaker to paint mental images of occurrences around and within them.

The processes are arranged in the semantic system of the language and expressed through the grammar of clause. These processes are called the Transitivity system.

Halliday (1985, 1994, 2004) cited by Bavali and Sadighi (2008) highlighted the processes and they are:

a. Material Processes

This is the process of 'doing' that explicates our experiences which include actions, activities and events. A material clause is branded by a certain structural form Procees+ Actor+ Goal (+Recipient), and Process+ Range. The Actor can be taken from the nominal group or non-finite

clause; the process could be 'benefactive' if it is directed i.e. if there is a recipient which would give us an expected end.

E.g. The King (Actor) gave (Process) the guard (Reciepient) his staff (Goal).

b. Mental Processes

This expounds sensing, perception, cognition and emotion; the composition of the course of consciousness involves a participant being equipped with consciousness entering into consciousness, configured as Process+ Senser+ Phenomenon. It is noteworthy that there is always a Senser usually realized by a group which denoted a being gifted with consciousness. The Actor is much more confined than all other participants in any type of the processes.

c. Relational Processes

This characterizes and identifies the relationship between two things or two concepts. It is conveyed in two modes namely: Attributive mode and Identifying mode.

In the attributive mode, an attribute is referred to a carrier and in the identifying mode an entity which is also known as the identifier is used to point out the other entity usually known as the identified.

In the sentence Betty is smart, 'Betty' represents the Carrier and the verb 'is' stands for the Attributive Relational Process and the word 'clever' is the Attribute. In the sentence Fidelia is the lawyer, 'Fidelia' is the identified element, 'is' signifies an Identifying Relational Process and 'the lawyer' is the identifier.

d. Behavioural Processes

These are mechanisms of physiological and psychological behavior such as smiling, coughing, laughing, breathing, nodding, etc. they have just one participant often known as Behaver. For instance, in the sentence Emmanuel snickered; 'Emmanuel is the behaver. The Behaver intervenes between material and the mental processes, in the sense that the Behaver is an entity like the Senser and is capable of reacting, but it functions more like the material process.

e. Verbal Processes

These are channels of 'saying' of any sort which encompasses all sorts of symbolic exchange. Halliday (1986:129) "like the notice tells you to keep quiet or my watch says it's half past ten". The expression (the message) is known as 'verbiage' and the one that gives out the message is called 'sayer' and the one on the receiving end is called 'Receiver'.

f. Existential Processes

This shows that something exists or happens and the word 'there' is often used in the clauses, but it has no typical verbs and it's only a subject filler. The verbs used in this processes are exists, arise, before, be, being, and other verbs that express the existence of a thing.

iii. Textual Meta-function

This concerns itself with the formation of texts with the use of ideational and interpersonal to present meanings as information that can be shared by the speaker and the listener in text unfolding in any situation.

2.3.2   Error Analysis

Error analysis was made popular by S.P. Corder in 1971 who said "A learner's errors, then, provide evidence of the system of language that he is using (i.e. the language he has learned) at a particular point in the course" (Richards 1985). The process of classifying and analyzing observable mistakes is called Error Analysis. It includes comparison between the error made in the target language and the nature of the target language. Pit Corder is called the Father of Error Analysis with his article 'the significance of learner's error' (1967). Errors were formerly seen as flaws that had to be eradicated but Corder argued that these errors are "important in and of themselves". The errors are indispensable for the learners themselves, since making these errors are regarded as a device used by the learner to learn the target language. The major aim of this theory is to describe how learning takes place by examining the learner's output which includes the learner's correct and incorrect utterances. It has been discovered that learners produce errors when they make assumptions about the rules of the target language. Error analysis performs a vital role in this study, in that it points out the errors in the output of the studied subjects.

Adeleye (2019) opines that errors occur when learners make inferences about the grammar of the target language. The errors provide evidence of the learning process as the learner gradually learns the nature of the target language.

Error analysis is complicated, in that often times it is not known what a speaker meant to say, and hence it is difficult to identify the errors the speaker has made (Crystal). EA cannot be studied without Contrastive analysis.

EA concerns itself with comparison between the errors made by learners while speaking the target language and the structure of the target language.

Language learning process in error analysis is often seen as being influenced by the learner's first language i.e. his\her interlanguage and the target language. a learner makes these errors because of the learning strategies being employed to discover the target language.

2.3.3 Behaviourist Theory

It is the first theory of language that was based on the work of Skinner and Pavlov using behavioural patterns of some animals in their experiment. This theory states that "language is a mental process of habit formation which proceeds by means of frequent reinforcement of stimulus-response sequence". In other words, language is learnt like every other psychomotor skill like walking, jumping, running or jumping (Adeleye 2019). The environment is a very crucial factor in learning for the behaviourist because it affects the learner's performance by providing feedback.

Behaviourists opine that every form of learning including language occurs through a process if imitation, practice, reinforcement, and habit formation. Spada et al as cited by Adeleye (2019) explained that when learners produce language produce language correctly that it tally with the language they are exposed to in the input and the efforts receive positive reinforcement, habits are formed.

2.3.4 Contrastive Analysis

Ntekim-Rex (2014) explained CA to be a systematic study of a pair of languages in order to identify their structural differences and similarities. Lado (1957) who propounded CA said that "those elements which are similar to the learner's native language will be simple for him and the elements that are different will be difficult".

Contrastive Analysis asserts that a person's L1 often interferes with the acquisition of his second language. The influence of L1 on L2 is as a result of transfer, which simply is the learner's projection of the nature of his mother tongue to the second language.

2.4 RELATED STUDY

The study of interference has been on ever since the study of language began and for as long as language is, the study of interference will continue to be. Nwaenyi Chinyelu (2010) carried out a study on the problems Igbo native speakers encounter in the use of English prosodic features. She discovered that the Igbo- English bilinguals try to insert vowels between consonant clusters which increases the syllables and wrong pronunciation. Patricia Jaspers (2011) carried out a study on the the Igbo language and discovered that Igbo deletes certain speech sounds in Igbo language and experience difficulty in employing intonation in English.

To buttress the fact that language is not just a set of rules, but a resource for carrying out communication regardless of how they affect one another Bavali and Sadighi (2008) M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar is the proper way to view language instead of restricting language to a set of rules.

Onike Rahman (2009) cited by Kaitlin Francis (2011) carried out a study on interference on Yoruba- English bilinguals and discovered that places stress on almost every syllable as a result of transfers from the dialects of Yoruba. Onike cited by Adeleye (2019) states that "the syntax of English and Yoruba language have recognized problem such as the nominal system, and expression of passives. According to him "the discourse level is more pronounced at the level of greeting. For instance 'Good morning how was your night?"

2.5 SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEW

This review was divided into three sections; definition of concepts, definitions of theories and related studies. The concepts that were defined are interference which has been established that it can be traced to the speaker's native language. The concept of language, English language, Yoruba language, Igbo language, and factors responsible for language interference were also examined.

In the theoretical framework, three theories were examined and they are: Systemic Functional Grammar, Behaviourist theory, Error Analysis and Contrastive Analysis. Systemic Functional Grammar was propounded by Michael A.K. Halliday. It asserts that language is more of a resource for communication rather than being a set of rules that governs communication. Behaviourist theory is based on the view that that learning a language involves the process of imitation, practice which results in formation of habits. Behaviourists opine that the properties of a speakers L1 usually affects the course of the L2 learning and that the learners 'tranfer' sounds, structures and the usage of one language to the other which results in interference. These interferences gave way to error analysis where all the wrong utterances made by learners of the target language are analysed and classified. The notion of error analysis cannot be examined without contrastive analysis which is the comparison of two systems of language and it predicts only the areas of difficulty for the second language learner.

The related study is a compilation of other researchers who have carried out several researches on the topic Interference. All of these researches show that competence in a speaker's L1 causes a huge hinderance to learning the L2. It is also noticed that the L1 has a larger influence on the L2.

Adeleye (2019) carried out a research on the Interference of Yoruba on Spoken English. She discovered that interference occurs at all levels of language; semantics, syntax, phonology, lexicon and pragmatics and that grammatical interference occurs depending on the bilingual's knowledge of the grammar of the language.

Through the theories, related literature and the concepts, the researcher has therefore resolved to base this research on Contrastive Analysis. The whole study is based on this theory.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a vivid and comprehensive account of how the research is conducted which includes the method used in collecting the research data and the process of analyzing the data. This study will make use of two selected English movies of Odunlade Adekola and three episodes of a reality TV show.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design can be seen as the structure of research. It is the glue that keeps the elements in a research project together (Samia, 2016). Jahoda et al cited by Adeleye (2019) expounds research design as "the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy and procedure." It anticipates and specifies the seemingly countless decisions connected with carrying out data collection, processing and analysis but it presents a logical basis for these decisions (Henry Manheim).

This study is a qualitative research, therefore it is descriptive. The design of this research is such that it examines and describes the choices of language of one of the selected celebrities and the error of the other selected celebrity in the entertainment industry.

3.2. AREA OF STUDY

This study covers a portion of the entertainment industry in Nigeria i.e. the movie industry and reality shows where English is spoken.

3.3 POPULATION OF STUDY

Population is known as the set of elements either person or objects that are similar to one another. This refers to the total amount of people a research work intends to cover.

This study intends to cover a portion of the entertainment industry. It is focused on the movie industry and the reality show.

3.4 POPULATION SAMPLE

This refers to the selection of some members of the designated area of study, from the population. It is the collection of a portion of the entire population. In this study the entire population is the entertainment industry and the selected portions of this large industry are the movie industry and the reality shows.

It is noteworthy that the researcher made use of random sampling technique. The researcher randomly selected the movie industry and the reality shows as the entertainment industry includes music. The selected celebrities were also randomly selected they are; Odunlade Adekola who works in the movie industry and Mercy Eke the co-owner of Mercy and Ike reality show on Africa magic.

3.5 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher made use of online research method to gather the information needed to carry out this research. The data for this research is gotten from the internet and they are: The Vendor and Celebrity Marriage for Odunlade Adekola. For Mercy Eke, the researcher would be using two episodes of the reality show.

3.6 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

To analyze the gathered data, descriptive\deductive technique examining one of the actor's choices of language to entertain and to teach morals and examine the errors of the other actor as a result of mother tongue interference was employed. The researcher examined Odunlade Adekola's choice of language in the English movie titled The Vendor and Mercy Eke's use of English

3.7 INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

The researcher collected the data for this study from the internet by downloading movies and episodes of the *Reality Show*.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of online data gathered from selected movies and episodes of *Reality Show*. Excerpts of data from two episodes of one *Reality Show*

and two movies are first presented in Arabic numerals before their analysis. The researcher adopts the M.A.K Hallidyian Systemic Functional Grammar and Corder's Error Analysis in her analysis.

4.1 THE INFLUENCE OF YORUBA AND IGBO ON ODUNLADE ADEKOLA AND MERCY EKE'S USE OF ENGLISH

This section examines excerpts from scenes where Yoruba and Igbo influence the selected celebrity's use of English . Phonetic and grammatical interference are identified and analysed below.

4..1.1 GRAMMATICAL INTERFERENCE

4.1.2. Presentation of Odunlade Adekola's Grammatical Interference

1. Everything that belongs to you, you will not cry on top of it.

2. They kidnap my boss.

3. Give me my papers.

4. I am ready to go.

5. Let him remove his cloth

6. Enter the car

4.1.3. Analysis of Odunlade Adekola's Grammatical Interference

Analysis: the expression 'everything that belongs to you, you will not cry on top of it' is a direct translation of the Yoruba *gbogbo oun ti o je ti yin, ee ni sunkun le lori*. The interpretation of this in Standard English is 'you would not weep over any of your possessions'. 'They have kidnap my madam' is an expression that shows that the past tense in Yoruba is a separate word as

against the addition of the suffix –ed to past tense in English language. The Yoruba expression for that direct interpretation is *won ti ji oga mi gbe*, which in Standard English is 'my boss has been kidnapped'. The third expression 'Give me my papers' is also transliteration of the Yoruba *fun mi ni paper mi* which is expressed in Standard English as 'Let me have my papers'. 'I am ready to go' is the direct interpretation of the Yoruba sentence *mo ti setan a ti lo* which is expressed in Standard English as 'I am set to take my leave'. The expression 'Let him remove his cloth' is a direct translation of the Yoruba e *je ko bo aso e* which is expressed in Standard English as 'Let him pull his clothes off' as you can only pull clothes off and not remove.

4.1.4 Presentation of Mercy Eke' Grammatical Interference

7. My dad have to go the clinic.

8. My mom have to come.

9. At least I have problem with you.

10. Things is going from bad to worse.

11. We always have conversation.

12. You have thing.

4.1.5 Analysis of Mercy Eke's Grammatical Interference

The expression 'my dad have to go the clinic' is the direct translation of the Igbo *nna m gaa ulo ogwu* as against the rule of verb concord of Standard English that explains that if the subject is singular then the verb must be singular hence the expression in Standard English being 'my dad

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has to go to the clinic' the same analysis applies to data 7. The expression 'at least I have problem' was used by Mercy Eke to express her displeasure towards an occurrence which is a direct translation of the Igbo *enwerem gi nsogbu* where the article '*a*' is absent and the problem of the right use of the tense form of have occurs. In Standard English, that sentence is expressed as 'at least I had a problem with you'. The expression 'things is going from bad to worse' this is a grammatical blunder that originated from the wrong choice of verb plural and singular concord. The expression 'we always have conversation' she wasn't referring to one conversation. That explanation applies to the last data as well omitting the suffix -s which is a grammatical blunder.

4.2 PHONETIC INTERFERENCE

4.2.1 Presetentation of Odunlade Adekola and Mercy Eke' Phonetic Interference

1. Things - /tins/

2. Imagine -/himajin/

3. One- /wan/

4. Nothing- /notin/

5. These- /dis/

6. Relax- /relas/

7. Through- /tʃru/

8. Hurting- /hʌtin/

9. Vendor- /fendʌ/

4.2.2 Analysis of Mercy Eke and Odunlade Adekola's Phonetic Interference

Most of the mispronunciations seen in the above data presented above occurred as a result of some absent sounds in their mother tongue. For example in words like nothing and through where the *th* is pronounced as /θ/ in Standard English is absent in both Yoruba and Igbo hence the pronunciation of the sound / θ / as /t/. This explains the presentation of data 1, 4, and 7. In data 2, Odunlade Adekola added the /h/ sound while pronouncing /imæjən/ not because there are no words in Yoruba that do not start with the /i/ sound but because it is a common issue Yoruba native speakers of English have while pronouncing some words in English. The word *one* is often pronounced as /wan/ by Yoruba native speakers of English because the sound /ə/ doesn't exist in the phonological system of Yoruba. For data 5 the sound /ð/ also doesn't exist in the phonological system of both Yoruba and Igbo hence the pronunciation of the word *these* as /dis/ and replacing the /z/ with /s/. Mercy Eke pronounced the word *relax* as /relas/ because in Igbo, consonant clusters are not allowed hence the narrowing down of the sounds /ks/ in the word relax to the last sound of the word which is /s/. The /v/ sound is absent in the Yoruba phonological system hence the pronunciation of the sound /v/ as the /f/ sound.

4.3 LEXICAL BORROWING

4.3.1 Presentation of Odunlade Adekola's Lexical Borrowings

1. <u>Oga</u> John.

2. Inviting me with <u>igbati</u>.

3. I am <u>ori ade</u>.

4. <u>Oya</u> unlock it!

5. Two signs of love, <u>abi</u>?

4.3.2 Mercy Eke

She did not borrow any vocabulary from her language possibly because of her audience and the co-owner who does not understand Igbo.

4.3.3 Analysis of Odunlade Adekola's Lexical Borrowings

All the underlined expressions are borrowed from Yoruba for deeper emphasis in different situations. The word *Oga* is a Yoruba word that connotes respect or refers to the acknowledgement of a superior person and it is often used in place of the English acronym, Mr. Igbati is a Yoruba word which is an action that involves an aggressive contact of someone's palm on someone else's cheek. *Ori ade* is also a Yoruba that simply means a crowned prince and it was used by the celebrity to mean importance. *Oya* is a Yoruba word that means now, *Abi* is also a Yoruba word that means right and is often used in form of exclamation or in questioning.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5. 1 FINDINGS

The findings of these are as follows:

5.1.1 Errors Caused by Yoruba and Igbo Language Interference on English by Nigerian Celebrities

Interference often occurs as a result of the phonological system of the mother tongue. As presented and analyzed in chapter four, most mispronunciation occurred as a result of the absence of those sounds in the phonological system of the celebrity's mother tongue and these absence led to elisions and deletions that has occurred, that is occurring and will keep occurring. As much as the phonological system of Nigerian languages differ, they have one thing in common and that is insertion and elision of sounds from words as a result of absence of the sounds in their phonological system and for the sake of convenience.

5.1.2 Yoruba and Igbo Mother Tongue Interference in Odunlade Adekola and Mercy Eke's Phonology and Grammar

Interference is a phenomenon that has established itself through bilingualism because two living languages being used alternately by one or more persons will inevitably have an effect on each other. If the bilingual is vast in one of the languages and has little knowledge of the other language, interference is inevitable.

In the case of the selected celebrities, the knowledge of the grammar of their mother tongue is higher than their knowledge of the grammar of English language which affects language at all levels i.e. phonology, syntax, grammar and lexis (coined words, lexical borrowings and so on). The speakers often misuse verb tenses and concord because in the grammar of their language, the tenses are very different especially the use of have, has, is, are and so on. For instance, the sentence '*if they born you well*' is a direct translation of the Yoruba sentence *ti won ba bi e da.*

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There is also the issue of concord where the Igbo language does not regard the rule of concord hence sentences like *my dad have to go to the clinic.*

As earlier stated in this chapter, the absence of sounds like /θ/, /ð/ do not exist in Yoruba and Igbo which makes it difficult for native speakers of Yoruba and Igbo pronounce words with these sounds as /t/ and /d/.

5.1.3   Hindrances to Communication

The interferences posed little or no threat to communication. It wasn't difficult to understand what Odunlade and Mercy were trying to pass across regardless of the errors they made as a result of Yoruba and Igbo interference. The Yoruba interference served as a tool for entertainment.

5.2   Conclusion

This study has revealed interference can be used as a tool for effective communication as long as th. Although the emphasis was more on the Yoruba-English interference, both language interferences can be useful tools of communications if the use and choices of the users can be considered as a style.

5.3   Recommendations

Interference is an unavoidable phenomenon even in the entertainment industry because majority of the world's population are multilingual. Therefore the researcher recommends that bilinguals

should study the grammar of English properly and make use of interference as a tool. Also, people whose native language evidently affects their spoken English should not be mocked instead consistent corrections should be made. As earlier mentioned, interference is very unavoidable especially when English is a second language.

I also recommend that interference should be recognized as a tool because these celebrities unconsciously use interference to achieve the purpose of entertainment.

This study has examined the negative aspect of interference therefore other researchers should further study the aspect of interference that aids communication.

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