

LANGUAGE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – A SOCIOSTYLISTIC STUDY OF KOLE OMOTOSO'S *JUST BEFORE DAWN*

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Abstract

This study explored the sociostylistic features of Kole Omotoso's Just before Dawn, a factional exposition of Nigeria's sociopolitical history, with a view to establishing how language use impacts national development. The study examined how utterances can communicate a meaning or message which may attract positive or negative feedback or consequences. This qualitative study identified the role of literary imagination in stimulating social consciousness. It highlighted the impact of language use on social context with emphasis on the therapeutic value of language, galvanising efforts towards national socioeconomic development. With findings that stress the substantial influence of language on national development, the study concluded that a sociostylistic analysis of the verbal exchange taken from Just before Dawn enhances a better understanding of the 345-page narrative, and how a distortion of meaning or intention may result in sociopolitical upheavals capable of scaring potential investors and tourists, thereby adversely affecting Nigeria's economic fortunes. The study underscored the discourse value of sociostylistics, highlighting the therapeutic value of language, showing how language shapes and reshapes perceptions of ideas and world views. It recommended further examinations of the sociostylistic features of literary texts to identify the interplay of art, ideological framework and social consciousness manifested in them.

Keywords: Faction, Language therapy, National development, Sociostylistics,
Just before Dawn

Introduction

Every text in any communicative event manifests lexical choices and expressions that blend to achieve the intended message of the text. This generally involves a speaker and an audience or interlocutor whose language use tends to demonstrate the capacity of language to shape perceptions of ideas and, ultimately, social consciousness and national development. Indeed, literature serves as a profound mirror reflecting societal dynamics particularly in an epoch where globalisation and national identity intertwine; while language plays a key role in shaping society. In other words, beyond being a tool for storytelling, language shapes and is shaped by the socio-cultural environment in which it operates. This is demonstrated in this sociostylistic study of a verbal exchange between Major-General Olufemi Olutoye and General Olusegun Obasanjo, then Nigeria's Head of State, in an extract from Kole Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*, a narrative that unfolds, according to the blurb of the book, "a history marred by violence" (Omotoso, 1988, para. 2). Omotoso's use of language in the text offers a lens through which one can examine the nuanced interactions existing between characters and their socio-economic circumstances. Besides illustrating the interplay between linguistic expression and socio-economic realities, the text narrates a compelling story predicated on Nigeria's sociopolitical history. According to Kowe (2024), the text is "a factional unravelling of the evolution of Nigeria as a country" (para. 1).

The novel, described in its blurb as, "a lively blend of fact and fiction... with depth of feeling and wry sense of humour," (Omotoso, 1988, para. 2), explores the origin of Nigeria, its trajectory, and naming the key characters who have, by their actions or inaction, set the stage for the country's current predicament marked by ethno-religious crises, expansionist campaigns, banditry, terrorist activities and several other indices of insecurity. *Just before Dawn*, published in 1988, the same year Salman Rushdie's controversial novel, *The Satanic Verses*, was published, seems to align with Rushdie who asserts, on February 18, 1989, four days after a *fatwa* was proclaimed on him by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Supreme Leader of Iran, because of *The Satanic Verses*, that, "A poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep." (Rushdie in Time, 2019, para. 9).

The sociostylistic approach applied in this study revealed the significance of power relations, particularly the role of interpersonal relationships in every society, modern or traditional, and how social power relations can affect a country's development. The major indicators of national development, as stated in Nigeria's National Policy on Education (2013), are: A free and democratic society; a just and egalitarian society; a unified, strong and self-reliant nation; a great and dynamic economy; and a land of bright opportunities for all citizens (p. 6).

Nigeria has virtually all it takes to achieve sustainable national development. Top on the list of these elements is a diverse cultural heritage with over 370 ethnic groups, with "625 languages at the last count," according to Mallam Adamu Adamu, Nigeria's erstwhile Minister of Education (Taiwo-Obalonye, 2022, para. 9), besides an abundant deposit of natural resources, fertile arable soil yielding and sustaining rich flora and fauna, and a temperate climate. The extract selected for this study illustrates the significance of linguistic choices and their implication for social consciousness in a multi-ethnic and multicultural society trying to obliterate the dark spots on its chequered history of post-war political and socio-economic circumstances. The study of the role of language in a nation's developmental process as depicted in literature can reveal underlying attitudes towards cultural exchange and development. This is portrayed in *Just before Dawn*, a blend of fact and fiction that dramatises broad themes of power relations, national identity, peace and development. National development, a complex process whose indices involve economic growth, social change and cultural evolution, is intricately connected with language use. Omotoso's depiction of this reality in the novel offers insights into how literary representation can reflect and critique a nation's the developmental trajectory.

Statement of the Problem

Many studies in linguistic scholarship on several literary texts based on themes drawn from Nigeria's sociopolitical and historical experiences have been carried out, such as Adeakin, (2015), Adeyanju & Olaniyan (2020), Akingbe (2011) and Nwosu (2020). However, there has been little or no significant research effort to interrogate and analyse the linguistic content of any such text using the framework of sociostylistics with focus on the therapeutic impact of the language of such texts on national development. This study thus investigated the sociostylistic features of Kole Omotoso's *Just before Dawn* with a view to identifying how lexical choices and expressions interact to communicate meaning or message in a literary text. The study examined the linguistic choices manifested in the verbal exchange between Major-General Olufemi Olutoye and his boss, Nigeria's Head of

State from 1976 to 1979, General Olusegun Obasanjo, in an excerpt from Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*. The two men belong to the same Yoruba ethnicity in the south of Nigeria; they are bound by multiple shared identities, including shared history, culture, language, traditional and religious beliefs, even if not philosophy or world view.

Toolan (2013) posits that every English clause manifests a particular semantic process, a number of associated participants, and possibly one or more circumstances. Sociolinguistics studies those types of language variation which result from the correlation between language and social factors. The selected text features major types of language variation resulting from the correlation between language and social factors, which include social stratification (socioeconomic class or status), role, age, sex and ethnicity. This is based on the suggestion by Bartley (2018) that a speaker or writer organises their discourse in line with their perception of a situation and the meanings they intend to convey to their audience, utterances being a projection of the inner and outer experiences of the speakers.

The study was motivated by the need to complement existing linguistic studies on literary discourse, identifying common sociostylistic features of a particular speech community, and concluding that certain socio-contextual variables which constitute features of a given speech community have ample impact on the style of individual speakers or writers. It was conducted to highlight the discourse value of sociostylistics, showing the role of language in national discourse.

Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to examine the impact of linguistic choices on national economic development based on a sociostylistic analysis of Kole Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn* (1988). The specific objectives are:

1. to conduct a sociostylistic analysis of Kole Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn* with a view to discovering how lexical choices and expressions combine to communicate meaning or message in a text;
2. to explicate the extent to which language use can contribute to Nigeria's socioeconomic development;
3. to demonstrate how language can serve a therapeutic role in national discourse; and
4. to identify the discourse value of sociostylistics through the analysis of Kole Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn*.

Research Questions

1. How do lexical choices and expressions combine to communicate meaning or message in a text?
2. To what extent can language use contribute to Nigeria's socioeconomic development?
3. How can language serve a therapeutic role in national discourse?
4. How can sociostylistic analysis of Kole Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn* highlight the discourse value of sociostylistics?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used for this study was Michael Halliday's system of Transitivity, a component of Systemic-Functional Linguistics (SFL). Systemic-Functional Linguistics (SFL, henceforth), a social semiotic approach to language established on the concept of linguistic function, serves to account for the syntactic

structure of language, while the system of Transitivity is a tool for analysing clauses, offering explanations as to how language is deployed to represent human inner and outer experiences (Bartley, 2018). SFL reveals how linguistic forms systematically relate to ideological, social and/or interpersonal and textual functions. According to Koutchade, Ayodele & Toulassi (2019), Halliday's meta-functional principle, a feature of SFL, offers an integrating platform for theorising how linguistic resources interact to create meaning. Transitivity features, the focus of this study, are: Process Types, Participants and Circumstances. The main process types in Transitivity system, which help humans to recognise and encode their vision and experiences of the world, are: material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioural and existential. In sum, Halliday's system of Transitivity analyses how language represents experiences through processes (verbs), participants (nouns or pronouns) and circumstances (adverbial or prepositional phrases).

This study, which approached language as a kind of therapy, was carried out from the perspective of sociostylistics, with the analytical focus on Kole Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*. Sociostylistics denotes the study or analysis of literature as verbal interaction. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies how social factors impact language use. Examples of sociolinguistic study include gendered language differences, regional differences, and how social class impacts language use. Sociolinguistics is based on the analysis of the characterisation, classification and functionality of language in society. It studies language variation resulting from the correlation between language and such social factors as social stratification (status), role, age, sex and ethnicity. In other words, sociolinguistics is concerned with the following kinds of variation: variation by social class, variation by region, variation by gender, variation by racial or ethnic group, and variation by relationships. Stylistics is the study of style in a text; that is, the study of linguistic features that signal the style, habit or idiosyncrasy of individuals or groups. Stylistics aims to explain the connection between linguistic form and literary effect, and to account for what it is that a reader is responding to when they commend or criticise the quality of a given piece of writing (McIntyre, 2012). A clause is characterised by Halliday (1985) as "The product of three simultaneous semantic processes" (p. 53). Halliday adds that "It is at one and the same time a representation of experience (ideational), an interactive exchange (interpersonal), and a message (textual)." Halliday thus identifies three main functions of language, which are: the ideational (or experiential) through which speakers or writers express their world view; the interpersonal through which users of a given language establish and maintain social contact; and the textual, which enables the first two to be brought together and organised in a communicatively effective way (Halliday, 1985).

Review of Literature

Sociostylistics

The key constituents of sociostylistics are sociolinguistics and stylistics, which Tariq (2018) characterises as, "the study of language and the language of literature in all its manifestation and is, one of the moderate approaches to literature" (p. 46).

Kole Omotoso's *Just before Dawn* (1988)

Omotoso's *Just before Dawn* is according to Kowe (2024), "a factional unravelling of the evolution of Nigeria as a country. It traces and explores its origin, trajectory, principal architects which have in the course of the decades, resulted to the nation's prevalent

conundrum” (para. 1). The blurb of the novel describes the narrative as dramatising “the first one hundred years of Nigeria” (Omotoso, 1988, para. 2); that is Nigeria’s complex, chequered history, with “real dates, towns and countries to establish the historical settings of the novel” (Kowe, 2024, para. 1). The novel dramatises notable events of the colonial era, showing citizens’ rebellion against some brutal racist policies of the British colonial authorities, and the post-colonial epoch featuring “long stretches of military usurpation and the short lived civilian democratic interregnum” (Kowe, 2024, para. 1). The novel devotes much attention to the discord and acrimony between the Southerners and the Northerners – a situation caused by poor communication. The discord later escalated, giving rise to secessionist agitations, which resulted in the 30-month civil war.

Just before Dawn is generally adjudged controversial, a tag that puts the book in the same class as *Michael Wolff’s Fire and Fury*, *Wole Soyinka’s The Man Died*, *Odia Ofeimun’s The Poet Lied* and *Salman Rushdie’s The Satanic Verses*. General Olusegun Obasanjo filed a suit and got an injunction banning the book in Nigeria. According to Jimoh (2018),

A former Head of State, who would later become civilian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, took the author to court for malicious/defamatory content in the book, thus giving it more mileage in popularity and demand. (para. 17)

Jimoh described Omotoso as a writer who, for the first time, “took a sweeping view of Nigeria’s history from pre-colonial times to the Second Republic and rendered it as a fictional narrative” (para. 10). This submission aligns with the position of this study in view of the historical content of the novel and the inability of General Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria’s former Head of State and, later, president, to get Omotoso discredited and his book perpetually blacklisted.

Empirical Review

General Olusegun Obasanjo, who served as Nigeria’s military Head of State from 1976 to 1979, a period dramatised by Omotoso in his novel, later served as the country’s civilian president from 1999 to 2007. He was a guest at the 12th Bayelsa State Thanksgiving Day at the Ecumenical Centre in Igbogene, Yenagoa, in 2023, where he hinted at the state of insecurity in Nigeria – and the role of peace as a precursor of national development, saying, according to Osahon (2023):

What I saw is more than what I expected. What you have here in Bayelsa that you have to cherish is peace. Comparatively, you have greater peace than other parts of the country. You have security. No peace without security and vice versa. If what is happening here is replicated in all other states in Nigeria, then we will say we have a good country. (para. 3-5)

Obasanjo further stated, according to Osahon:

Bayelsans want peace and development. The former governor laid the foundation upon which we are building and everybody, who comes to the state acknowledges the peace and security. So, we cannot go back to the era of violence, impunity and brigandage. The essence of government is to bring peace, development and progress. (para. 6).

Obasanjo’s posture reflected in the above utterances ascribed to him clearly negates his attitude to his subordinates, such as Major-General Olufemi Olutoye (in the data used for

this study), when he (General Olusegun Obasanjo) was Nigeria's Head of State, a situation that engendered disaffection within military and socio-political circles in the country. This tends to portray him more as a preacher whose utterances are at variance with his deeds.

Adeyanju and Olaniyan (2020) conducted a sociostylistic investigation of Chukwuemeka Ike's *Sunset at Dawn*, a narrative predicated on the Nigerian civil war. The study examined the sociostylistic features of the text with focus on the impact of the socio-context of the hostility and war on the use of language in the text. They concluded that the socio-context of war involving the author exerts a substantial impact on language use in the novel. Language use is a significant factor that stresses power relations manifested in the data used for this study, showing General Obasanjo to have social-formative power over Major-General Olutoye.

Adeakin (2015) conducted a field research exploring the phenomenon of authoritarianism in Nigeria. The study raised a crucial question about the tendency of multi-ethnic states, such as Nigeria, to operate authoritarian systems of government. The study argues that, "the unrestricted institutional framework accorded the military has contributed significantly to authoritarian practices in the post-military era in Nigeria" (p. iv).

Adeakin's research reinforces the position of this study that the multi-ethnic character of Nigeria resulting in mutual suspicion among leaders of the various ethnic nationalities in the country is one of the main causes of authoritarianism and its attendant socio-political upheavals. Indeed, the relationship of ethnic nationalities based on mutual distrust and suspicion, usually resulting from communication breakdown, can hardly encourage peaceful co-existence, which is the basis for growth and development. This accounts for the current high rate of insecurity in Nigeria, a problem that seems to have overwhelmed the government. For instance, the Presidency on Sunday, March 10, 2024, ascribed the recent cases of abductions across the country to "subregional geopolitical forces conspiring to undermine the government of President Bola Tinubu" (Angbulu, 2024, para. 1).

The allegation was made on a national television programme (TVC's "Politics") by AjuriNgelale, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity. Ngelale was reacting to the abduction of over 280 pupils and teachers of Government Secondary School and LEA primary school in Kuriga, Kaduna state, on Thursday, March 7, 2024 (Angbulu, 2024).

There seems to be a consensus among these and several other studies about the relationship between language use and national harmony, cohesion, peace and, thus, national development.

Methodology

The population of the study, a qualitative study, was Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*, a 345-page historical novel presented in thirteen chapters; while the sample, purposively selected, was an extract from the novel – a verbal exchange between Major-General Olufemi Olutoye and General Olusegun Obasanjo, then Nigeria's Head of State. For the analysis, SFL, with sociostylistic tools, was used to investigate the *transitivity features* of the sample.

Data Analysis

This section presents the analysis of Transitivity Processes, Transitivity Participants and Transitivity Circumstances using Halliday's Transitivity system. Transitivity facilitates the analysis of the roles and interactions reflected in the data – a verbal exchange between Major-General Olufemi Olutoye and his boss, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the then Nigeria's Head of State. The two men belong to the same Yoruba ethnicity in the south of Nigeria. They are bound by multiple shared identities, including shared history, culture, language, traditional and religious beliefs, even if not philosophy or world view. The selected text features major types of language variation resulting from the correlation between language and social factors, which include social stratification (socioeconomic class or status), role, age, sex and ethnicity.

(A) Processes

1. Material Processes (actions/events)

Major-General Olufemi Olutoye had asked to see the Head of State:

Process: asked /**Actor:** Major-General Olufemi Olutoye/**Goal:** to see the Head of State/
he went over in his mind what he would say:

Process: went over/**Actor:** he/**Goal:** what he would say

This process highlights Olutoye's proactive role in seeking a meeting with the Head of State, showing his initiative and the significance of his mission.

Then the Head of State came in:

Process: came in/**Actor:** the Head of State

This action shows General Obasanjo's authoritative entrance, establishing his presence and control over the situation.

2. Verbal Processes (saying)

You wanted to see me? Any problem?:

Process: wanted to see, ask/**Sayer:** you/**Receiver:** me

Any problem?:

Process: ask/**Sayer:** General Obasanjo

This process features General Obasanjo's direct verbal processes, highlighting his straightforward, no-nonsense approach to the dialogue, asserting his authority.

I just wondered if you do not think that you have made too many concessions to the North recently:

Process: wondered/**Sayer:** I/**Receiver:** you/**Verbiage:** if you do not think that you have made too many concessions to the North recently

Here, Olutoye's verbal process is cautious and respectful, even it conveys his critical posture on Obasanjo's political decisions.

3. Mental Processes (perception/cognition/emotion)

His mind saw the long stretch of Nigerian history:

Process: saw/**Senser:** His mind/**Phenomenon:** the long stretch of Nigerian history

Perhaps because the solidarity of his own Yoruba people no longer existed:

Process: existed/**Senser:** the solidarity of his own Yoruba people/**Phenomenon:** no longer

This process highlights Olutoye's reflective nature and his understanding of Nigeria's political history which offers context for his concerns.

Major-General Olutoye wondered if the Head of State was going to order his arrest:

Process: wondered/**Senser:** Major-General Olutoye/**Phenomenon:** if the Head of State was going to order his arrest

Here, the process highlights Olutoye's anxiety and suspicion, signifying the delicacy of the conversation.

4. Relational Processes (being/becoming/having, defining identities and relationships between participants)

he was coming to see him:

Process: was coming/**Carrier:** he/**Attribute:** to see him

it was as a brother and a brother officer that he was coming to see him:

Process: was/**Carrier:** it/**Attribute:** as a brother and a brother officer

This process stresses the shared identity and bond between Olutoye and Obasanjo, which frames his approach to the dialogue.

(B) Participants

Major-General Olufemi Olutoye: Actor, Senser, Sayer, Carrier.

He initiates actions (asking to see General Obasanjo), perceives (sees the stretch of Nigerian history) and communicates his perception (wonders about concessions to the North).

General Olusegun Obasanjo (Head of State): Receiver, Sayer, Carrier.

He responds, and prompts further discussion (*You wanted to see me? Any problem?*).

Shehu Yar'Adua: Participant in the verbal exchange.

His entrance shifts the dynamics and introduces a new receiver to the conversation.

(C) Circumstances

Circumstantial Elements (offering additional context, e.g. time, place, manner, cause and condition):

As he waited for the Head of State to come in, he went over in his mind what he would say:

Temporal Circumstance (Circumstance of time): *As he waited for the Head of State to come in/Process:* went over/**Actor:** he/**Goal:** what he would say

This circumstantial element sets the scene for Olutoye's reflective state; it suggests time, offering context for his internal monologue, showing anticipation and preparation before the crucial meeting.

Circumstantial Means: *thanks to the quarrel between Chiefs Awolowo and Akintola*

This explicates the cause of the perceived breakdown in Yoruba solidarity.

Contextual Dynamics and Power Relations

The conversation between Major-General Olutoye and General Obasanjo highlights power dynamics and political tensions. Olutoye approaches cautiously, reflecting on the consequences of his words and actions.

General Obasanjo's responses are terse and direct, showing his authority and the seriousness of the dialogue.

Shehu Yar'Adua's entry alters the interpersonal dynamic, introducing an element of public accountability and potentially strategic maneuvering by General Obasanjo.

Outcomes of Findings

The findings of this study, which analysed Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn* from the perspective of sociostylistics, have revealed how lexical choices and expressions combine to communicate meaning or message in a text.

The sample seems to portray General Olusegun Obasanjo as a mole in the midst of his fellow southern officers and leaders, even during his days as a military officer, and an agent provocateur for the northerners – someone who incites other people to commit a violent or an illegal act in order to incriminate them for his selfish interest. This perception had a substantial impact on the loyalty and sense of patriotism not only of his direct subordinates but also of many other citizens across the various ethnic communities that make up Nigeria.

The verbal exchange is symbolic of the communication breakdown which plunged the country into a fratricidal war in the sixties, and is still threatening the foundation of the country. The dialogue dramatises how a little matter, such as a personal conflict – intrapersonal and/or interpersonal – can, if left unresolved, develop into a communal, tribal or ethnic combat.

The findings highlighted the influence of language use on socio-context with emphasis on the therapeutic value of language, galvanising efforts towards national socioeconomic development.

The findings have, thus, demonstrated how language can serve a therapeutic role in national discourse and contribute significantly to Nigeria's socioeconomic development.

The findings have been able to establish the discourse value of sociostylistics, offering further vital material for linguistic analysis of literary texts stimulating national discourse, particularly in Nigeria.

Summary and Conclusion

With the aid of Transitivity system, this study investigated the roles and interactions within the conversation between Major-General Olufemi Olutoye and General Olusegun Obasanjo in Omotoso's *Just Before Dawn* with a view to establishing how linguistic choices could impact national socioeconomic development. The study uncovered the nuanced roles and processes that shape the interaction. Major-General Olutoye's internal monologue and verbal expressions are framed by his role as an actor and senser, conveying a blend of strategic thinking and emotional reflection. General Obasanjo's pithy responses and subsequent actions highlight his authoritative position, reflecting the broader political landscape and power struggles within the Nigerian military and government. The transitivity analysis of this conversation illustrates the power dynamics and interpersonal relations between Major-General Olutoye and General Obasanjo. The analysis underscores the complexities of power and authority, solidarity and identity within their interaction. It offers a deep understanding of the underlying dynamics in the text, reflecting tension and suspicion, for instance, and demonstrating how utterances can communicate a meaning or message that may attract positive or negative feedback or consequences.

The study has been able to underscore the discourse value of sociostylistics, showing how language shapes and reshapes perceptions of ideas and thus, world views, and society. The study presented language as a double-edged sword capable of promoting harmony and

development, if effectively utilised; and conflict resulting from communication breakdown, if not used effectively.

Based on the discovery that language therapy has substantial impact on national development, the study concluded that a sociostylistic analysis of the verbal exchange taken from Omotoso's *Just before Dawn* enhances a better understanding of the novel and how a distortion of meaning or intention may result in communication breakdown, which may lead to sociopolitical upheavals capable of scaring potential investors and tourists, thereby adversely affecting the economic fortunes of the country. The study underscored how linguistic choices can substantially impact national economic development.

The implication is of this conclusion on this study is that the analysis of a literary text, such as Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*, using a sociostylistic approach enhances a better understanding of the exposition and how linguistic choices could substantially impact national development. The characteristics and peculiarities – indeed, the success or failure – of a given society is often a function of communication mediated or facilitated by language.

This study has thus filled a wide gap in the sociostylistic study highlighting the therapeutic value of language.

Recommendations

The study thus made the following recommendations:

1. Further sociostylistic analyses of literary texts by linguists, particularly stylisticians, sociolinguists, literary scholars and linguistic critics, will enhance a better understanding of the resources and, particularly, the therapeutic role of language in society.
2. Further sociostylistic analyses of Nigerian literary texts (by literary scholars and linguistic critics), particularly those stimulating national discourse – such as Omotoso's *Just before Dawn*, Wole Soyinka's *The Man Died* and Odia Ofeimun's *The Poet Lied* – with a view to identifying the interplay of art, ideological framework and social consciousness manifested in the texts. Also, comparing Omotoso's work with other texts, for instance, may offer deeper insights into the diverse ways in which language interacts with themes of national unity, peace and development.
3. Critical studies integrating perspectives from sociology, economics and cultural studies with literary analysis could enrich the understanding of how literature reflects and influences socio-economic issues. A cross-disciplinary approach could offer a more comprehensive understanding of the interactions between language and national development.
4. In Nigeria's search for effective political leadership and national development, educators and school administrators should give the youth of the country early exposure to the vast resources and intricacies of language as a way of grooming them to become good political leaders.
5. The government, through the ministry of education, should ensure that political leaders in Nigeria are given rigorous grooming in language and communication skills. Language education should be incorporated into the induction programmes usually organised for political leaders upon assumption of office.

6. National cohesion and harmony can be achieved through active communication, mediated through language use.

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