REVITALIZING LANGUAGE EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Dr. Justina Lere Charles-Zalakoro and Kwagha Beetseh

Abstract

The paper is on revitalizing language education for national security, development and good governance. Revitalization is the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality. Revitalization means to impact a new life or vigor to something. It involves changing of the nature, content or strength of something to get a desired new nature, strength or content which will satisfy the need for it. Since language is every human's property, it can be used as a source of maintaining peace and security. Every thought or action starts with language. Language education is a system of communication employed by human being in the expression of thoughts, feelings, ideas and intensions. Insecurity, developments and good governance are all intensions that are conceived in the mind, using words in any language for instructions, direction or commands to carry out the intentions. This paper examines revitalizing language education for national security, sustainable security, sustainable development and good governance, with conclusions and suggestions.

Education has been used and will continue to be utilized as a tool for sustainable development and security by various countries of the world, be it indigenous or modern. According to Nateinyin & Toinpre (2018), education determines sustainable security of a nation. The benefit of investing in education to every society is all encompassing. They further went to state that, investing in education benefits society and world as a whole, that broad-based education of good quality is among the most powerful instruments known to reduce poverty and equality. With proven benefit for personal health, it also strengthens nation's economic health by laying growth for individual and nations. It is to key to creating, applying and spreading knowledge and thus to the development of a dynamic globally competitive security development.

Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interactions of humans. It is the means by which they communicate with one another. The importance of the relationship between language and society cannot be overemphasized in the growth and development of a community. Language is an essential tool in the development of a nation especially a nation

like Nigeria. Language can be seen as a lubricant that makes activities in a society flow smoothly. Uga & Fanan (2021) assert that an individual uses language to communicate his thoughts, inner feelings and psychological experience. Also, in order to establish social relationship and maintain peace and security, language is essential. It is a tool with which people express their ideas and feelings, thereby, achieving effective communication for peace talk and security development. Revitalizing language education is a challenging task which stakeholders should consider as a serious business, revitalizing is the act of putting back to new life, (Philip and Arthur, 2016).

Almost all majority development institutions today say that promoting good governance is an important part of their agendas. This review suggests this is an extremely elusive objective: good governance means different things not only to different organizations, but also the different actors within these organizations. Working uses of the term good governance by donor institutions tent to highlight seven key areas: democracy and representation, human rights, the rule of law, efficient and effective public management, transparency and accountability, develop mentalist objectives, and a variety of particular economic and political institutions, (Keefer 2019).

In the community of nations, governance is considered good and democratic to the degree in which a country's institutions and processes are transparent. United Nations state that good governance promoted equity, participation, pluralism, transparency, accountability and the rule of law, in a manner that is effective, efficient and enduring.

Concept of Revitalization

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2021), Revitalization is the process of making something grow, develop, or become successful again. It is also the ability to make something stronger, more active or healthier. It is the bringing again into activity and prominence. Looking at the state of education in Nigeria today, even though technology has so much improved, the standard of learning, education in general has suffered serious setbacks in terms of producing sound graduates and impacting knowledge to the students. This is due to the sickening insecurity situations across the states in Nigeria, where schools are closed for months because of kidnappings, wanton killings of students and banditry in the school environments. The quality of learning in the past was more than the present standard, (Musa, Fibisola & Ibraham, 2021).

As the world is fast growing in both technology and the world of science in general, the system of education needs to be revitalized in order to meet up with the fast growing standards, language education is the only source. Therefore, revitalization in the process of re-strengthening the policy of activities that govern education here in Nigeria in order to produce sound and quality graduates that will be able to fit into the technology society (Musa, Febisola & Ibrahim2021).

Concept of Language and Language Education

Language is man's greatest endowment which enables man to communicate with one another as passed on the age-long heritage from generations. The possession of the power of manipulating language to suit one's different purpose confers on one the ability to fit into many aspect of life where the delicate, accurate and flowery use of language may be needed, (Grace and Kenneth, 2012).

In the present day society that is being gradually overtaken by urbanization, the search for those whose oral and writing skills overflow is gathering momentum. Thus, those who have these skills are offered rich employment opportunities and avenues for wealth creation and self-reliance through opening up of private language clinics. In the education enterprises, the discipline that has the mandate of inculcating these skills among students is "Language Education". What then is language education? Language Education refers to the study of the arts of language. It involves the study of nature and importance of language, the theories and process of language developing the skills and deeper understanding of practical approaches, competence and problems in the language acquisition process, (Charles – Zalakoro ,2020).

Grace and Kenneth, 2012 also said that language education provides the learner with a deeper understanding of the science of language and equip the individual with the skill for achieving greater proficiency in manipulating the language art. In universities language education and Igbo education are not offered as course. These entire language education programs are house in the department of Arts education of the universities (Lendzemo 2001).

Revitalizing Language Education for National Security

Language education means language studies or linguistics which is the scientific study of languages, it can also be defined as teaching and learning of languages. Mary Patricia (2021), defines language studies as a "field of scholarly endeavor". Language is a system of communication employed by human beings in the expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas and intentions etc. It is defined as "the system of communication, speech and writing that are used by the people of a particular country. This definition may be the reason behind some language teachers' action to concentrate on making the language leaner's interest in speech and writing without an in-depth knowledge of non-verbal communication or forms of language. Language education means scientific study or teaching and learning of languages (Charles – Zalakoro & Beetseh, 2021).

Revitalization is the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality. According to Uga & Fanan, 2021 revitalization means to impact a new life or vigor to something. Uga & Fanan sees revitalization as a process of change. It involves changing of the nature, content or strength of something to get a desired new nature, strength or content which will satisfy the need for it, (Mary Patricia 2021). When something is revitalized, it does not remain the same, quantity, strength and power which will lead to its effectiveness are added to it to meet the individual or need at the time. Therefore, revitalization is a process which is geared towards changing the nature, methods or activities in the curriculum of language as a course to meet the demand of the time.

Language education ought to be studied as a course without being housed in education faculties of universities. When there is adequate and required revitalization, a sustainable output is realized which will solve the problem at hand. Revitalization is sustainable when it is able to solve the present problem and extend to future generation with hindering its development. Nigerians need sustainable education especially for security development. This generates thoughts for solution in the hearts of Nigerian populace. The role of language in National security is not just to spread people but to offer a holistic approach around all aspects of the policy of the country called Nigeria, (Kangyyan &Aipe, 2021). Kangyyan &Aipe further states that currently, the war on terror, banditry, kidnapping and attacks on innocent communities displacing children and parents is not only fought by the armed forces but the whole nation is engaged in the economic, scientific, political and social activities especially education and happenings in all practicable fields of life.

Sustainable Security

Sustainable security is a prerequisite for development. Sustainable security is one that endures and lasts, one that will not role back or recede, even in the face of threatening reversal waves. It is a kind of development which can assure the security and protection of the environment and its resources presently and subsequently. When the security of any nation is threatened the development of such a place is grossly affected, (Ogechi, 2021).

Sustainable and development" A clear understanding of each of these two component word is necessary to make this discourse more meaningful. The literary meaning of "Sustainable" is that which can continue or continued for a long time; capable of being maintained at a set level, keep up assumed role competently. (The American Heritage Dictionary, 2000; the 21st Chambers Dictionary, 2001; Longman Dictionary Contemporary English, 2003; Hornby, 2005) in Abraham (2012). Establishing relationship between education and security for sustainable economic development requires peace and harmony to function. Sustainable security and development through education foster healthy and safe environment where people can thrive and function in a sustainable way.

Viewed from this perspective, security is one of the most basic needs of people no matter the age bracket of status and also the territorial; environment. In Maslows hierarchy of needs, it is ranked second to physiological needs that is security and safety. People want to experience order, peace predictability and be in control of their lives, (Ogehi 2021). Therefore security is also a political issue on account of the key decisions that need to be made by Nigerian authorities to regard a particular issue as a priority. Nigeria is presently grappling with gross underdevelopment, killing, kidnappings, murder, poverty, inequality, hunger, banditry and gross insecurity, violence, ethnic conflicts and crisis. For instance, the activities of Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, fake prophets and other secrets gangs are getting out of hand. In September 5th 2021, in Adamawa State, more than fifty schools were closed down. Niger State Traditional Rulers were kidnapped. Katsina State lawmakers wife was attacked and road killings. This led the states Governors of Kaduna and Plateau States to combine to fight killing on the road because they have ethnic and Geographic boundaries and

joints for strategies to manage their boundary. Nigeria had under siege join strategies (Ogechi 2021), (Silver Bird T.V 5th Sept 2021).

Ensuring security is regarded as one of the most fundamental objectives and functions of the country. Generally, it depicts protection against military attacks, but includes security from terrorism, economic security, food security, cyber security, territorial/ environmental security, maintenance of independence and sovereignty of the nation and security for natural disaster; security becomes the core fulcrum on which revolves all other developmental indices of a state or nation. The economic, social, political and indeed every other dimensions of development are all anchored on security. In realization of this fact the Nigerian constitution regards security as a fundamental objective of state policy. It is also observable that the Government should adopt some measures which include political, economic, military, civil, diplomacy, dialogue and other intelligent tactic to safeguard the security of the nation. In all, language education provides the skills, information, education, debate forum, knowledge, sensitization and creativity to develop new approaches that are necessary for sustainable security and national development. A paradigm shift is only possible through critical conscious and innovative citizens, (Ogechi 2021: 49-50.)

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the fact that puts into consideration the present condition of the people as well as not compromising those that come later, (Sunday, 2016). Therefore, sustainable development remains the parameter of measuring development. Sunday (2016) defined sustainable development as "the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs." In another definition, Sunday (2016) quoting Munasinghe (2004), sustainable development is perceived as a process of improving the range of opportunities that will enable individual humans and communities to achieve their aspirations and full potential over a sustained period of time while maintaining the resilience of economic, social and environmental systems.

Ogechi (2021) identified some objectives which sustainable national development is expected to realize: increase capital income and employment, promoting human welfare satisfying basic needs: protecting the environment. Considering the path of future generation, achieving equity between rich and poor and participation on a broad basis in development and decision making is important. From the above definitions, there is common phenomenon which they all shared: that is prioritizing the development of the present generation without compromising the future generation with language education.

Good Governance

In an attempt to discuss good governance, there is need to extensively examine governance as a concept because good governance flows logically from the idea of governance. The concept of governance is a contested one. As Pierre & Guy (2000:7) observed, it is a concept that is notoriously slippery, frequently used by social scientist and

practioners without concise definition. However, the range of definitions that have surfaced on governance can be subsumed into two broad categories.

On the one hand are those who view governance in a technical sense. In this case, the concept barrows directly from its usage in the corporate world. The second conceptual perspective to governance is a holistic one that transcends the state and its intuitions. Governance is seen as the process of steering state and society towards the realization of collective goals. Beetseh, K & Akpoo (2015), defines governance as a process of social engagement between communities. Its component parts are rule in a regime structures and outcome and results of the social pact. Governance is viewed as "the totality of the exercise of authority in the management of a country's affairs, comprising of the complex mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercises their legal rights, and mediate their differences. It encompasses the political, economic, legal, judicial, social and administrative authority and therefore, includes; government, the private sector and the civil society (Beetseh, 2018).

Having extensively deliberated upon the concept of governance into different perspectives, it is pertinent at this point to look into the subject matter, which is "Good Governance".

Good Governance flows logically from the concept of governance, governance becomes "good", when it operated in accordance with legal and ethical principles as conceived by society (Beetseh, 2012). In other words, good governance is a normative concept by which society seeks to provide a guide and direction to itself through standards and norms embedded in the governance idea. The urge to steer state according to defined rules and procedures, and ensuring that governance in all ramifications serves the interests of the greatest number of people in society through a collective participatory endeavor.

Good governance is not about a model of polity, or a procedural arrangement, but a holistic and consequential variable. It is not about forms of government, but the result of governance. It is not the process or course of a political rule, but its effects; it is about effective and productive governance.

At the micro-level, good governance denotes organizational effectiveness, which is the capacity of an organization to achieve tasks assigned to it within set rules and regulations and favorable environmental conditions. At the macro-level, good governance is about engendering public welfare and promoting the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people (Beetseh, 2018). Good governance is about a responsible government that provides the fundamental needs of her citizens that are cater for the citizens' welfare.

It is further argued that most of the state institutions that make good governance possible an efficient bureaucracy and judicial system, well organized police force, and so on, are largely undemocratic institutions, of which the issues of appointment, promotion and operational modes are not subject to democratic practices in Nigeria.

Commenting on good governance, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Mahathir, and Senior officials of Singapore, like minister, Lee Kwan Yew alluded to this. According to them, what their societies need is not democratic government, but good government. That is,

government that will provide economic well-being, political stability, social order, communal harmony, efficient and honest administration, (Beetseh, K & Akpoo, 2014).

Good governance is the key to development in any society, but unfortunately, Nigeria as a country has great challenge on this. Good governance is almost ruled out in Nigeria, because of bad leadership and weak institutions, (Beetseh, K & Akpoo, 2015).

Conclusions

 Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interaction of humans. It is only language that can persuade a neighbor, friends, a relationship, uncle, aunt, brother and sister not to do something harmful to another person. So insecurity in the nation can only be curbed if the government with the people come together with all seriousness to insecurity with orientation on the ills of insecurity with all native language that those having intention to kidnap, kill and destroy can have a second thought. Insecurity is inimical to the society. There can be no future generations if we all kill one another.

 Every thought is conceived by means of words and the words are in a particular native language where everyone belongs. It is the thoughts of whoever is at the helm of affairs that cannot do for themselves. Since the security of life and property in the present situation can be done by the government, it can expedite actions by giving the individuals safe environment, that language education can do for this generation and the future generation. Sustainable security is a prerequisite for economic development. Sustainable is one that will not role back or recede even in the face of threating reversal waves. It is a kind of development which can assure the security and protection of the environmental and its resources presently and subsequently. When the security and protection of any nation is threatened, the economic development of such a place is grossly affected.

 Sustainable national development is a process of improving the range of opportunities that will enable individual humans and communities to achieve their aspirations and full potential over a sustainable period of time while maintaining the resilience of economics, social and environmental systems. Good governance is a situation or process by which legal and ethical principles are strictly adhered in the running of nation's affairs. It is a normative concept by which society seeks to provide a guide and direction to itself through standards and norms embedded in governance idea. Therefore, it is a concept every nation in the world should learn to sustain, especially in Nigeria where the concept is missing. Good governance is that which provides the fundamental needs of her citizens-that is cater for the citizens' welfare.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are proffered for the subject under review.

1. Language education and its components should be introduced as a course of study in the university curriculum.
2. Government at all levels in Nigeria, should take national security, a top most priority and enforce the curbing of all forms of threat to life and social insecurity.

3. Government should take a proactive measures to ensure that its policy thrusts and decisions should bring about sustainable developments that will positively affect future generations.
4. The ethos of good governance should be inculcated and maintained in every public agency, for the purpose of equitable delivery of social goods and services, for all in the society.

References

Abraham, N.M. (2012). Toward Sustainable National Development through well managed early childhood Education, *World Journal of Education*213,43- 48).

Beetseh K (2012) Good Governance and Credible Elections in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 4, Pp.65-73

Beetseh K (2018) Herdsmen/Farmers Crisis: A Threat to Democratic Governance in Nigeria *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences* 8 (11) Pp.100-108

Beetseh, K & Akpoo T (2014) Good Governance and Credible Elections: A Panacea for Conflict Resolution in Nigeria *Journal of Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Africa* (JGGSDA) 2 (2) Pp. 146-151.

Beetseh, K & Akpoo T (2015) Money politics and vote buying in Nigeria: a threat to democratic governance in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research* 2 (5) Pp.65-73.

Cambridge Dictionary (2021). Retrieved from https://.wwwgoogle.com/amp/s// dictionary.cambridge.or/amp/english/revitalization.Accessed06/03/2021

Charles-Zalakoro, L.J. (2020). Introduction to Language Education. Okaka, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Dream Star Printing/ publishing/ event.

Charles-Zalakoro& Beetseh, K (2021) Language Education: A Panacea for Peace Building and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. *Multi disciplinary Journal of Academic Excellence*: 21 (1). Pp.13-24

Grace, C.O. & Kenneth O. E. (2012). Analysis of Entrepreneurship Skills Acquisition Content of Language Education Curriculum at University of Nigeria, *Journal of Curriculum* Studies, 19 (3)

Kangyyan, J.P & Aipe, A.M (2021). *Herdsmen, Banditry and kidnapping activities: A threat to Secondary School in Nigeria* In Ochigbo, S E, Beetseh, K & Abuburka, S (eds) Global Insecurity: Challenges and the Ways Forward. (81-90) Akura: Science and Education Development Institution.

Keefer, P. (2019). Governance? In T. Landman and N. Robinson (eds), the sage Handbook of comparative politics. London: Sage. pp. 439-62

Lendzemo, C.V. (2001). *On English as a Minority Official Language in Cameroon; Language Attitude and Language Conflict in West Africa*; Ibadan, EnicrowfitPublisher.

Marypatricia, U. I. (2021). Revitalising Nigerian Languages for Security Developmentin Nigeria. *Multi disciplinary Journal of Academic Excellence*: 21 (1).Pp. 232-242

Musa, T.G Febisola, O.B, & Ibrahim, S. (2021). Revitalising Reading Culture at Secondary School level in Nigeria for Sustainable Development. *Multi disciplinary Journal of Academic Excellence*: 21 (1).Pp. 138-147

Nateinyin, J. A and Toinpre, C.E. (2016). *Emerging Issues in Achieving University Basic Education in Niger Delta, South-South, Nigeria.* Faculty of Education, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. 8 (2)

Nateinyin, J.A. (2016). *Fostering Cultural Security in Youth and Women for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta. Education and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria*: Book of Reading in Honourof Prof. John Cecil Buseri (J.P) (Fnae), The Pioneer Vice Chancellor of Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Amassoma, Bayelsa State. Port-Harcourt, University of Port-Harcourt Press.

Ogechi, R.O. (2021). Revitalisation of Adult Education for Sustainable Security and Economic Development in Nigeria: *Multidisciplinary Journal of academic Excellence*, 21 (1)

Philip, K.K. and Arthur, E.O. (2016). Ijaw Language: The extinction factor and possibilities of Conservation in South-South Nigeria; *Niger Delta Journal of Education*, Faculty of Education, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Amassoma, Bayelsa State.

Pierre, J.B and Guy, B. (2000). *Governance, Politics and the State*. London, Macmillan Press.

Silver bird T.V. News 5th September (2021). *Incessant Security Threats in the Northern Nigeria and Killings.*

Sunday, O.E. (2021). *Quality Education and Management for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta: Education and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria*; Book of Reading in Honour of Prof. John Cecil Buseri (J.P) (Fnae), The Pioneer Vice Chancellor of Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

Uga, M.O & Fanan, A. G (2021) Language Education: A Panacea for Peace Building and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. *Multi disciplinary Journal of Academic Excellence*: 21 (1). Pp.1-12