



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Detailed course descriptions

ENG955 English-Based Pidgins/Creoles and Decreolization (3 Credit units)

A study of history, role and nature of the English language in Nigeria; especially the complex multilingualism are studied along with the influence of the English based Pidgin and Nigerian languages. It involves studying the forms of Pidgin English in Nigeria with a view of exposing the students to the complex multilingual structure of the Nigeria populace. Pidgins/creoles, the world over, is significant linguistic phenomenon that have in some cases assumed the status of a lingua franca, business language, language of the common people, and so on. There are different forms of pidgin/creoles depending on which language (s) they are related. Thus, there are French-Based, German-Based, English-Based pidgins/creoles, etc. The focus of this course is essentially the English-Based pidgins/creoles forms in Nigeria.

Course Aims

- a. To explore the history, role and the nature of the English Language in Nigeria
- b. To explore the theoretical foundations of the origin of pidgins/creoles in Nigeria.
- c. To explore the forms of Pidgin English in Nigeria.
- d. To expose the student to the complex multilingual situation in Nigeria as regards the study of the English language.
- e. To examine the differences between pidgins and creoles

f. To study the English-based pidgins/creoles and their varieties in the Nigerian context.

Course Objectives

To meet the set goals, the course contains the overall objectives which give the students insights into its major focus. Notwithstanding, each unit of the course has its specific objectives. Thus, at the completion of this course, students are required to be able to:

- a. relate the history, role, status and the nature of the English language in Nigeria;
- b. explain the origin and nature of pidgins/creoles in Nigeria;
- c. explain the role of pidgins in the multiple-language situation in Nigeria;
- d. distinguish the pidgins/creoles in Nigeria as distinct from any one elsewhere in the world; and,
- e. relate their understanding of the English-based pidgins/creoles in Nigeria, especially as it is influenced by the Nigeria languages

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