

Beyond the Jingoism of “Infodemic” in the Use of Language: Prospects for a Better Nigeria

Authors : Anacletus Ogbunkwu

Abstract : It is very disheartening that fake news or inaccurate information spread like wide fire and even with greater speed than fact based news/information. The peak of this anomaly is manifest in information management on the Corona virus pandemic, political/leadership based information, ethnic bigotry, unwarranted panics, false alarms, religious fanaticism, and business moguls in their advertorials, comedies, etc. This ugly situation has left Nigeria and her citizens with emotional trauma, unguided agitations, incessant tribal wars, lost of life and property, widened disunity among Nigerian ethnic and religious groups, amplified insecurity, aided election violence, etc. Unfortunately, among the major driving factors to this misinformation and conspiracy are the official/government and private news agencies, gossip, comedians, and social media handles such as; facebook, twitter, whatsapp, instagram, and online news agencies, etc. Thus this paper examines the impact of misinformation here referred to as infodemic. Also, it studies the epistemic effect of misinformation on the citizens of Nigeria in order to find ways of abating this anomaly for a better society. The methods of exposition and hermeneutics will be used in order to gain in-depth study of the details of infodemic in Nigeria and to offer philosophical analysis/interpretation of data as gathered, respectively. This paper concludes that misinformation or fake news has a perilous effect of epistemic mistrust to Nigeria and her citizens; hence infodemic is a cog in the wheel of National progress.

Keywords : nigeria, infodemic, language, media, news, progress

Conference Title : ICPLM 2023 : International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Multilingualism

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : June 22-23, 2023