

English and the Question of National Language in Nigeria

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Abstract : This paper examined the role of English language and the quest for a national language in Nigeria. Various hindrances to the choice of a national language in Nigeria were observed. These include: The dominant role of English language, political instability and multilingual nature of the country. The writer suggested that "the three big" that is, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba should be selected as the national languages. It was also suggested that a credit pass in a student's mother tongue and one of "the three big" (Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba) should constitute the prerequisite for admission into Nigerian higher institutions.

Keywords : English, roles of English, national language, Nigerian languages, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba

Conference Title : ICELLL 2016 : International Conference on English Language, Literature and Linguistics

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : January 18-19, 2016