



Curbing National Insecurity through Effective use of Language

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Abstract— This study investigated curbing of national insecurity through effective use of language. The study assessed the present state of insecurity in Nigeria, language as a panacea to the insecurity ill that plague our nation, Nigeria and the role of language in ensuring peaceful co-existence in the nation. The study adopted a descriptive research design of survey type. The sample size of 100 respondents which included lecturers and students was drawn from the population of 345 members of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere chapter. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire tagged “Language as a Panacea to Curbing Insecurity in Nigeria (LPCIN) Questionnaire”. The three research questions raised to guide the study were answered using descriptive analysis of simple frequency count, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The two (2) research hypotheses formulated for the study were tested using Chi-square (χ^2) statistic of independent sample at 0.05 level of significance. Analysis of the study revealed that there was significant influence of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria. It was also revealed that there was significant influence of appropriate use of language on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. The study concluded that the problem of national security is not that of the government alone but what every Nigerian should collaborate to ensure thorough effective and appropriate use of words of the accepted language communication. The study recommended that Nigerian government should create communication channels to effectively disseminate information, create awareness and give the people a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Keywords— Curbing; Language; Insecurity, Panacea, Nigeria

I. INTRODUCTION

Security is a state of being secured or a state of being free from fear and tension. No nation or society can develop amidst tension and insecurity. Security is paramount, and to think of advancing a nation socially or economically, without tackling her prevailing security challenges, is like building castle in the air. Insecurity is the state of being opened to danger, threat or lack of protection. In a similar assertion, Oyinloye (2022) submits that insecurity is a serious challenge to education and development of the nation. Without the security of lives and property, the level of growth and development that may be recorded in other

sectors of our socio-economic life, as a nation state, can never be sustained. Olakunle (2011) asserts however, that security is just like food and infrastructure, like power and health care facilities that can improve standard of living and bring comfort, as well as longevity. Apart from loss of lives and property, insecurity stunts growth in all ramifications as it even scares foreign investors.

In a similar development, Salami, Adeyemo and Adeyemo (2019) opine that the current security challenges confronting the Nigerian nation, which range from insurgency in the North East, armed banditry, to endless kidnapping for ransom, have assumed a level termed

unprecedented in Nigerian history, since the end of civil war in 1970. Also, Nwinee (2019) submits that thuggery and cultism are considered professions in Nigeria and regarded as more profitable and influential than medicine, law or engineering. Thugs and cultists are patronized by political leaders and they are well paid for their efforts, particularly during election seasons. Nwinee (2019) further affirms that the (2018) global terrorism index rates Nigeria as the third most terrorized country in the world for the fourth consecutive time. This 'exalted' position, however, is not unconnected with increase in violence in almost every area of our life; ritual murder, kidnapping, herders' extremism and according to Nwinee (2019) thousands of deaths, committed by the deadly terrorist group, Boko Haram.

In a similar assertion, Odita (2012), states that security is the foundation on which any meaningful project is anchored. It also adds that our constitution clearly states that the reason for any government, is the provision of security for lives and property of the citizens. The country belongs to everyone, irrespective of ethnicity, religious or political diversity but when there is an attack on anyone under any of these three, it then becomes a calamitous phenomenon, which makes the integrity of our dear nation questionable, hence, Jonathan (2012), states that it is when Nigerians are secured that they can enjoy a robust economy.

Nigeria and its Multilingual Nature

Nigeria is bedecked with a chaotic language situation. Bamigbose (1976) asserts that as of today, nobody knows specifically how many languages are used in the country. He however claims that there are about 200 languages, Hansford (1976) claims 395 and Aguiyi (2009) claims 513. The language problem resulting from the existence of many languages in Nigeria has been very unfavorable to the country's efforts to achieve national peace and unity hence, Yusuf (2009), posits that in most African countries including Nigeria, language is a problem. Rather than use language to forge friendship and cultural ties, mutual suspicion and hostility borne out of ethnicity abound. Bokova (2012), affirms that the language of our thought and our emotions is our most valuable asset. Multilingualism incurably is in ensuring quality Education for all, in promoting inclusion and in combating discrimination. There is the English language, which is our lingua franca but it is only spoken among the few educated and they also have the privilege to use it orthographically. Many of the indigenous languages on the other hand, are yet to be reduced to writing.

They do not have materials to sustain the teaching and learning of the language and they also do not enjoy the profusion of pedagogical materials that English language enjoys. It is observed that only few of the Nigerian

population are literate while the majority of Nigerians are left in the dark as far as the use of language for communication is concerned. As Adebayo (2010), opines that the day we sincerely choose to place great value on our mother tongue, marks the genesis of our exodus from all forms of neocolonialism.

The Importance of Language

The use of language, whether first language, indigenous language, mother tongue language, native language, second language, foreign language, national language, official language, regional language, trade language or lingua franca cannot be over emphasized. Obadare (2006), succinctly asserts that language helps us to verbalize our thoughts, joy, feelings and even sadness. According to Adedigba and Adeniran (2020), the capacity for language is one of the greatest endowments of humans. It is a unique attribute that serves ubiquitous functions and uses Okafor (2005), highlights the use of language to help promote peace in Nigeria, that inability to understand a language, which is the result of differences in language, is a major factor that have been making the task of nation building a herculean task. In a multilingual country like Nigeria, with over 513 languages being spoken, it is very dangerous to focus only on English language for means of communication to the utter neglect of the indigenous languages that have a wider usage. All these different languages can be used to communicate on the evil effect of insecurity in our dear country as Iwuagwu (2011), succinctly opines that the ascendancy given to English language to the detriment of Nigerian languages may lead to extinction of some of these languages. Language and culture can never be dichotomized. Language is a reflection of image, tribe, feelings, emotions, activities and direction, hence the language policy recommends the teaching and use of indigenous language in addition to the use and teaching of English language.

In an illuminating assertion, Olagoke (2017) highlights that if only 79 million (53- 34%) people out of the total population of 156, 493,000 million Nigerians can speak and understand English, then many people are still excluded from adequate information. No wonder Olatunji (2020) posits that languages that can serve to promote national development are indigenous languages but the Nigeria elites have not really seen the need to disentangle themselves from the imperialists, as evident in the fact that the educational policy of Nigeria is still the reflection of the colonial policy. Similarly, Olagoke (2017) explains that without the use of indigenous languages for educating the masses, many of whom are not literate in English, sustainable development then remains a mirage.

Some Security Challenges Facing the Nation

Nigeria is bedecked with a lot of security challenges, like robbery, road accidents, rape, cultism, bank robbery, kidnapping, ritual killing, political violence, drivers' violence, miscreants' violence, human trafficking, women trafficking, child trafficking, religious conflicts and lately Boko Haram, which novel action in the history of Nigeria has brought untold hardship and loss of scores of lives of unimaginable magnitude. These and more, are the many ugly security challenges that Nigerians have to live with every day. Obadare (2021) submits that in Nigeria, insecurity has become a daily occurrence, as hardly a day passes without a terrorist killing an innocent person, a person is murdered, revenge killings, churches bounded, bombed, people kidnapped, cattle herders fighting with farmers over grazing fields, youths' killing or kidnapping.

Reacting to the orgy of violence that has become part and parcel of our polity, Okonwo (2011), emphasizes that there is so much insecurity, violence, bloodshed and destruction of property and infrastructure going on in the country, and it appears that people do not have an answer to the problem. In a similar assertion, Ojo (2019) posits that the chaotic situation in the country calls for a quick and lasting solution due to the incessant feuds and emotional instability caused by activities of the hoodlums, criminals, cult members, and Boko Haram in the Northern part of the country. Bello (2017) explains that insurgency has resulted in kidnapping and killing of students, teachers, parents and destruction of schools.

II. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

This study attempts to investigate the use of language to curb the perennial insecurity challenges bedeviling our dear country, and in doing this, the researchers attempt to find answers from language lecturers to the following research questions.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

1. What is the present state of insecurity in Nigeria?
2. Is language a panacea to the insecurity ill that plague Nigeria?

3. Can adequate use of language be able to improve peaceful co-existence in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study.

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria.

H₀₂: There is no significant influence of appropriate use of language on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

Significance of the study

The results of the study will inform our leaders of the urgency in providing the right environment for the adequate use of language to curb our various security challenges

III. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive design of the survey type. The population of the study consisted of 345 members of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and 3570 students of Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology (BOUESTI), Ikere chapter. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 50 academic staff and 50 students in BOUESTI from the 3 Colleges of study totalling 100 respondents. The sample for the study consisted of 55 female and 45 male respondents in the institution. The research instrument for the study was a 20-itemed self-structure questionnaire. The questionnaire titled; "Language as a Panacea to Curbing Insecurity in Nigeria (LPCIN)" was constructed and subjected to validity and reliability test. A degree of internal consistency of 0.82 was obtained using Spearman-Brown split-half method. Data was analyzed using frequency count, percentage, and mean to answer the three (3) research questions raised for the study. The two (2) research hypotheses formulated for the study were tested using Chi square statistic of independent sample at 0.05 level of significance.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Analysis

Research Question 1: What is the present state of insecurity in Nigeria?

Table 1: Responses to the present state of insecurity in Nigeria.

S/N	Items	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Decision
1	Insecurity in Nigeria is a recurring phenomenon that threatens the well-being of its citizens	69 (69.0)	23 (23.0)	7 (7.0)	1 (1.0)	3.60	Agreed
2	The South part of Nigeria is plagued by a surge in cybercrime, armed robbery, kidnapping, domestic crime,	39 (39.0)	51 (51.0)	9 (9.0)	1 (1.0)	3.28	Agreed

	extrajudicial killings, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry						
3	The Northern part of Nigeria is beleaguered by a surge in religious intolerance, youth restiveness, insurrection, and kidnapping for ransom	60 (60.0)	35 (35.0)	5 (5.0)	0 (0.0)	3.55	Agreed
4	The Eastern part of Nigeria is plagued by a surge in oil bunkering, kidnapping, ritual killings, drug pushing, secessionist, militancy, and commercial crime	39 (39.0)	44 (44.0)	14 (14.0)	3 (3.0)	3.19	Agreed
5	Nigeria's present state of insecurity is fueled by ethnicity and language diversity	63 (63.0)	25 (25.0)	12 (12.0)	0 (0.0)	3.51	Agreed
6	Poor state of Nigeria roads stimulates insecurity in the highways and other road trunk network	46 (46.0)	31 (31.0)	22 (22.0)	1 (1.0)	3.22	Agreed
7	Nepotism, ethnocentricity, corruption with impunity are the bane on the state of Nigeria's insecurity	70 (70.0)	20 (20.0)	6 (6.0)	4 (4.0)	3.56	Agreed
Mean score equals or above 2.50 is Agreed, Mean score below 2.50 is Disagreed							

Table 1 showed the mean scores of items 1 to 7 regarding the responses to the present state of insecurity in Nigeria. The table showed the mean scores ranging from 3.19 -3.60. This implies that majority of the respondents are in agreement with all the statements. Analysis of statement revealed that (92.0%) of the respondents believed that insecurity in Nigeria is a recurring phenomenon that threatens the well-being of its citizens, while the remaining (8.0%) held contrary view.

It was further held that (90.0%) of the respondents indicated that the South part of Nigeria is plagued by a surge in cybercrime, armed robbery, kidnapping, domestic crime, extrajudicial killings, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry, (95.0%) of the respondents equally believed that the Northern part of Nigeria is beleaguered by a surge in religious intolerance, youth restiveness, insurrection, and kidnapping for ransom, (83.0%) of the respondents agree that the Eastern part of Nigeria is plagued by a surge in oil bunkering, kidnapping, ritual killings, drug pushing, secessionist, militancy, and commercial crime, (88.0%) of the entire respondents held that Nigeria's present state of insecurity is fueled by ethnicity and language diversity, (77.0%) of the entire respondents held that poor state of Nigeria roads stimulates insecurity on the highways and other road trunk network while (90.0%) of the entire

respondents held that nepotism, ethnocentricity, and corruption with impunity are the bane on the state of insecurity in Nigeria. .

In summary, Table 1 showed the response to the present state of insecurity in Nigeria. It revealed that the state of insecurity in Nigeria is a recurring occurrence which in all ramifications threaten the well-being of Nigerians. It was observed that plethora of insecurity challenges traversed all over the country, ranging from the Southern part of Nigeria which are plagued with cybercrime, armed robbery, kidnapping, domestic crime, extrajudicial killings, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry, the Northern part which are plagued with a surge in religious intolerance, youth restiveness, insurrection, and kidnapping for ransom to the Eastern part of the country, which is plagued with oil bunkering, kidnapping, ritual killings, drug pushing, secessionist, militancy, and commercial crime. It was further revealed that ethnicity and language diversity, as well as poor state of road played significant role in the present insecurity state of Nigeria while nepotism, ethnocentricity, and corruption with impunity were believed to be the bane on the state of Nigeria's insecurity.

Research Question 2: Is language a panacea to the insecurity ill that plague Nigeria?

Table 2: Responses to whether language is a panacea to the insecurity ill that plague Nigeria.

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Decision
1	National integration through indigenous languages will play an integral role in curbing insecurity in Nigeria	73 (73.0)	25 (25.0)	2 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	3.71	Agreed
2	The multifarious languages in Nigeria improve tolerance of other persons with different indigenous languages and promotes intercommunity relations	36 (36.0)	56 (56.0)	8 (8.0)	0 (0.0)	3.28	Agreed
3	The survival of the Nigeria nation depends largely on many factors such as language, religious tolerance, employment, etc.	52 (52.0)	30 (30.0)	18 (18.0)	0 (0.0)	3.34	Agreed
4	The problem of national security is not that of the government alone but what every Nigerian should collaborate to ensure through effective and appropriate use of words of the accepted language communication	54 (54.0)	32 (32.0)	11 (11.0)	3 (3.0)	3.37	Agreed
5	The insecurity in Nigeria has taken a shape that needs, more than any other thing, effective and appropriate use of language as a more comprehensive measure to address it	49 (49.0)	38 (38.0)	11 (11.0)	2 (2.0)	3.34	Agreed
6	Jingles in the language of the immediate environment on mass and social media will help in great deal to curb insecurity in Nigeria	55 (55.5)	31 (31.0)	11 (11.0)	3 (3.0)	3.38	Agreed
7	Effective language usage can proffer a lasting solution to the plethora of insecurity challenges that beleaguer Nigeria	69 (69.0)	23 (23.0)	7 (7.0)	1 (1.0)	3.6	Agreed

Mean score equals or above 2.50 is Agreed, Mean score below 2.50 is Disagreed

Table 2 showed the mean scores of items 1 to 7 regarding the responses to whether language is a panacea to the insecurity ill that plague Nigeria. The table showed the mean scores ranging from 3.28 – 3.71. All the mean scores in the Table 2 are greater than cut off point of 2.50 which means that majority of the sampled respondents agreed with the statements. Analysis of statement revealed that (98.0%) of the respondents believed that national integration through indigenous languages will play an integral role in curbing insecurity in Nigeria while the marginal remaining (2.0%) held contrary view.

It was further held that (92.0%) of the respondents indicated that the multifarious languages in Nigeria improve tolerance of other persons with different indigenous languages and promotes intercommunity relations, (82.0%) of the respondents indicated that the survival of the Nigeria nation depends largely on many factors such as language, religious tolerance, employment, amongst others, (86.0%) of the respondents agree that the problem of national security is not that of the government alone but what every Nigerian should collaborate to ensure through effective and appropriate use of words of the accepted language

communication, (87.0%) of the entire respondent held that the insecurity in Nigeria has taken a shape that needed, more than any other thing, effective and appropriate use of language as a more comprehensive measure to address it, (86.0%) of the entire respondents held that jingles in the language of the immediate environment on mass and social media will help in great deal to curb insecurity in Nigeria while (92.0%) of the respondents held that effective language usage can proffer a lasting solution to the plethora of insecurity challenges that beleaguered Nigeria.

In summary, Table 2 showed the response to whether language is a panacea to the insecurity ill that plagued Nigeria. It was revealed that national integration through indigenous languages will play an integral role in curbing insecurity in Nigeria while multifarious languages in Nigeria was believed to improve tolerance of other persons with different indigenous languages and promotes intercommunity relations. It was further revealed that

survival of the Nigeria nation depends largely on many factors such as language, religious tolerance, and employment, amongst others, and that the problem of national security is not that of the government alone but what every Nigerian should collaborate to ensure through effective and appropriate use of words of the accepted language communication. The insecurity in Nigeria was believed to have taken a shape that needed, more than any other thing, effective and appropriate use of language as a more comprehensive measure to address it, while Jingles in the language of the immediate environment on mass and social media was believed to help in great deal to curb insecurity in Nigeria, effective language usage can proffer a lasting solution to the plethora of insecurity challenges that beleaguered Nigeria.

Research Question 3: Can appropriate use of language be able to improve peaceful co-existence in Nigeria?

Table 3: Responses to whether appropriate use of language could be able to improve peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Decision
1	Language has the capacity to spark off conflict and chaos; it also has the capacity to calm or douse a raging storm depending on how it is used	70 (70.0)	20 (20.0)	6 (6.0)	4 (4.0)	3.56	Agreed
2	Appropriate use of language by all people in all quarters of Nigeria will improve peaceful co-existence among the citizens	40 (40.0)	42 (42.0)	17 (17.0)	1 (1.0)	3.21	Agreed
3	The political class and the elites in Nigeria ought to be mindful of the choice of their speeches to guide against civil unrest	71 (71.0)	21 (21.0)	8 (8.0)	0 (0.0)	3.63	Agreed
4	People have to be conscious of linguistic choices they make and ensure that they are used in appropriate contexts to avoid violent reactions that can lead to insecurity in the country.	47 (47.0)	40 (47.0)	13 (13.0)	0 (0.0)	3.34	Agreed
5	Proper use of language can usher in the needed change; the restoration of peace and security in Nigeria	49 (49.0)	32 (32.0)	12 (12.0)	7 (7.0)	3.23	Agreed
6	Lasting peace, progress and security can come from dialogue, mediation and negotiation (which are language based) and not through armed combat and a general atmosphere of fear and intimidation	58 (58.0)	21 (21.0)	18 (18.0)	3 (3.0)	3.34	Agreed

Mean score equals or above 2.50 is Agreed, Mean score below 2.50 is Disagreed

Table 3 showed the mean and standard deviation of items 1 to 6 regarding the response to whether appropriate use of

language could be able to improve peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. The table showed the mean scores ranging from

3.21 – 3.63. Since all the mean scores in Table 3 are greater than 2.50, it indicates that the respondents coincided with statements. Analysis of statement revealed that (90.0%) of the respondents held that language has the capacity to spark off conflict and chaos and it also has the capacity to calm or douse a raging storm depending on how it is used while the remaining (10.0%) held contrary view.

It was further held that (82.0%) of the respondents agreed that appropriate use of language by all people in all quarters of Nigeria will improve peaceful co-existence among the citizens, (92.0%) of the respondents held that the political class and the elites in Nigeria ought to be mindful of the choice of their speeches to guide against civil unrest, (87.0%) of the respondents agreed that people have to be conscious of linguistic choices they make and ensure that they are used in appropriate contexts to avoid violent reactions that can lead to insecurity in the country, (81.0%) of the entire respondent held that Proper use of language can usher in the needed change; the restoration of peace and security in Nigeria while (79.0%) of the entire respondents believed that lasting peace, progress and security can come from dialogue, mediation and negotiation (which are language based) and not through armed combat and a general atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

In summary, Table 3 showed the response to whether appropriate use of language could be able to improve peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. It was revealed that language has the capacity to spark off conflict and chaos and it also has the capacity to calm or douse a raging storm depending on how it is used, and that appropriate use of language by all people in all quarters of Nigeria will improve peaceful co-existence among the citizens. It was further believed that the political class and the elites in Nigeria ought to be mindful of the choice of their speeches to guide against civil unrest in the country. It was also believed that people have to be conscious of linguistic choices they make and ensure that they are used in appropriate contexts to avoid violent reactions that can lead to insecurity in the country, and that proper use of language can usher in the needed change; the restoration of peace and security in Nigeria. Lasting peace, progress and security can come from dialogue, mediation and negotiation (which are language based) and not through armed combat and a general atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant influence of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi square analysis of the relationship between languages and the state of insecurity in Nigeria.

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.034 ^a	4	.003
Likelihood Ratio	8.884	4	.0002
Fisher's Exact Test	9.404		
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.973 ^b	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	100		

The result of the analyses in table 4 showed the effectiveness of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria. The chi-square test revealed that calculated χ^2 (.003) was less than the significant level at the 0.05. This implies that there is significant relationship between

languages and the state of insecurity in Nigeria, hence the null hypothesis was not upheld.

Hypothesis 2:

There is no significant influence of appropriate use of language on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

Table 5: Chi square analysis of the appropriate use of language on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria.

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	31.439 ^a	6	.000
Likelihood Ratio	36.958	6	.001
Fisher's Exact Test	32.033		
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.648 ^b	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	100		

The result of the analyses in table 5 showed the analysis of appropriate use of language and its significant influence on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. The chi-square test revealed that calculated χ^2 (.000) was less than the significant level at the 0.05. This implies that the appropriate use of languages significantly influence the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria, hence the null hypothesis was not upheld.

Discussion of Findings

In view of hypothesis one, the stated null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria was rejected. This result implies that there is effectiveness of language on the state of insecurity in Nigeria. The findings corroborated the assertion of Obadare (2006) who succinctly asserts that language helps us to verbalize our thoughts, joy, feelings and even sadness. The language problem resulting from the existence of many languages in Nigeria has been very unfavorable to the country's efforts to achieve national peace and unity. This position supported Yusuf (2009) who asserts that in most African countries including Nigeria, language is a problem.

On the second hypothesis, the stated null hypothesis that there is significant influence of appropriate use of language on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria was equally rejected. This implies that the appropriate use of language has significant influence on the improved peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. This finding supported the position of Okafor (2005) who highlights the use of language to help promote peace in Nigeria, that inability to understand a language, which is the result of differences in language, is a major factor that has been making the task of nation building a herculean task.

V. CONCLUSION

Insecurity in Nigeria has recently assumed a dangerous dimension that even threatens the very existence of the nation. Something urgently needs to be done, either to stamp it out or to reduce it to the barest minimum. Insecurity poses a threat to life and property. It hampers business activities and discourages local and foreign investors. National security is a cherished value to many Nigerians yet, many do not care any longer about new development but go about igniting fire to consume the existing development. This they do through their ineffective use of language. It is important that our political players, and indeed Nigerians in general, should try to maintain continuity as well as achieve peace and success in language use by constantly, and strategically figuring out what to say, how to say things and how to understand what others say in the process of interacting with others.

The problem of national security is not that of the government alone but what every Nigerian should collaborate to ensure through effective and appropriate use of words of the accepted language communication. A thought should therefore be given to what one wants to say, his receiver, the effect of his utterance on the receiver, the possible interpretations that might be given as his intended meanings. These are necessary because the insecurity in Nigeria has taken a shape that needs more than any other thing, effective and appropriate use of language as a more comprehensive measure to address it.

This paper therefore advocates for the use of language as a plausible mechanisms that can be adopted in solving security challenges. The paper submits that lasting peace, progress and security can come from dialogue, mediation and negotiation (which are language based) and not through armed combat and a general atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

For any meaningful democracy to exist, there must be peace to be enjoyed by every citizen. Nigeria needs peace and concentration for its continued existence, development and security. It is in view of this that this paper recommends the following in order to enhance national security:

- Government should create communication channels to effectively disseminate information, create awareness and give the people a sense of belonging and inclusion.
- Political office should be mindful of the linguistic choices they make as they engage in communication transactions.
- People should strengthen their feedback mechanism and improve on their communicative competence.

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