

The Instrumentality of Language in Mobilizing People about the Danger of Covid-19 Pandemic

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Date of Submission: 14-11-2021

Date of Acceptance: 29-11-2021

ABSTRACT

As a tool of creating better understanding to various people in the society, Language has the capacity mobilize the people against Covid-19 pandemic which affect the lives of people in the world. So this study aims at addressing the instrumentality of language in mobilizing the people against the danger of covid-19 pandemic in their societies. The study uses the secondary source of data to obtain the data. Also lexical and semantic aspects of language are used for this study. Again, the data is analyzed, presented, discussed and it is deduced that language served as an instrument that can mobilize the people against Covid-19 pandemic. Finally the study concludes by recommending some measures to be considered in order to save our languages from extinction.

KEYWORDS: Instrumentality, Language, Mobilizing, Covid-19, Pandemic.

I. INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of understanding the message of this study clearly, let us start with the definition and some few functions of language. Language like any other concept has several definitions. This is of course due to the fact that people seem to view things from various angles. However most of the definitions of language seem to have some similarities. So, according to Pearson et al (2003) "Language is collection of Symbols, letters or words with arbitrary meaning that are governed by rules used to communicate. Also, Adebayo and Ojo (2010) define language "as phenomenon that allow human-beings to communicate their feelings, aspirations and desires in their society".

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY:

This study aims in addressing the instrumentality of language in mobilizing the people about the danger of covid-19 Covid -19 pandemic in their societies.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The paper tries to look at the lexical and semantic aspects of language which serve as instruments for

mobilizing the people against danger of this covid-19 pandemic.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 SOME FUNCTIONS OF LANGUAGE:

Language functions in several ways as could be seen below:

Means of communication: language is the major tool or means of communication by various people living in the society. Dele (1976) believes "that in every aspect and interaction in our everyday live, we use language to tell people what we like, question and understand our world. We communicate very well with our words, gestures and tone of voice in multiple situations. So, language serves as mean of communicating our messages to other people".

Cultural identity: language is the major tool that identify its speakers wherever they found themselves. Pinta and Yakubu (2011) believe "that language is the major cultural aspects which easily identify the people in the society". Therefore language is the only tool that identifies its speakers wherever they find themselves

Tool for economic development: Language helps in developing any nation especially when it is properly plan and effectively manage as resource. An examples of such countries is China which conduct almost all its activities in their language and this make to seen as one of the develop countries in the world. Also any country that neglect its languages may hardly develop. Also it is observed that monolingual countries are developing rapidly t .

Tool for ethnic unity: Language is the powerful tool for ethnic integration. Pinta and Yakubu (2014) observe 'that language is the powerful tool for ethnic unity. It is the tool that bind its speakers together which enable them to see themselves as one and work together to achieve their aims'. So this function of language enable each tribe to unite and to identify their norms and values that will guide their lives in any society they find themselves.

Tool for socialization: Language serves as a means of socialization because we use it to express our ideas, feelings and desires to the extent that we will be understood easily by others. The characteristics of human language provide the ground for us to express our ideas, feelings and aspirations which make language a powerful instrument for understanding the Covid-19 pandemic among the various people in the society. Also, the definition giving by Adebayo and Qjo (2010) is used as a guide to this work for it defined language as a means of communicating our messages to one another in the society.

Furthermore, the term instrumental function of language is used in this discussion to mean that language is the instrument that can mobilize people concerning the Covid-19 pandemic through its written or spoken form, sign language, information and communication technology etc. To make people stay safe and healthy and discharge their daily activities either in offices, factories or any working environment to earn their living

Covid-19 Pandemic: According to world health organization the term is used to mean an infectious disease caused by SARS-COV-2 virus. Also most people infected with this virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can be sick with Covid-19 and consequently become ill or die at any age.

How Covid-19 started [Genesis of it]

According to Yen-Chin and Skingru (2020) Corona-virus pandemic known as Covid-19 has become the fifth documented pandemic since the 1918 flu pandemic. Covid-19 is firstly reported in Wuhan in China which is a country in the Asian continent. According to the international committee on Taxonomy of virus based on Phylogenetic analysis (ICTVPA), the Corona-virus was officially named severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-COV-2). SARS-COV-2 is said to be a spillover of an animal corona virus and later adopted the capacity of human-to-human transmission. Consequently, the virus is highly contagious, it rapidly spreads and continuously evolves all over the world.

III. METHODOLOGY

The data of this study was drawn from the secondary source which include text books, internets and other written material.

IV. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

As stated above that the data of this study was drawn from text books, internets and other written material and was the lexical aspect of language which was presented as follows:

Quarantine
Antibodies
Community spread
Containment
Covid-19
Artemisia
Ban
Contact-tracing
Curfew
Social distancing
Drive through testing
Essential service
Epicenter
Endemic
Epidemic
Endemic
Flatten the curve
Gaelic
Hard immunity
Incubation
Job loss
Kits
Lock down
Masks
Outbreak
Pandemic
Recovery
Sanitizer
Transmission
Underlying condition
Ventilators
Who
Xenophobia
Zoonotic
Incidence
Isolation
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS]
Mortality
Morbidity
Personnel Protective Equipment [PPE]
Disposal full face=shield
Prone
Respirator
Ventilator
Shelter-in-place order
The medical response
Anti-Viral Medicine

4.1 DATA ANALYSIS

Having presented the Lexical data above, below is a Semantic analysis of it:

QUARANTINE: This means the measure used to prevent the onward spread of covid-19 pandemic where the infected people are properly checked and tested.

ANTIBODIES: This means the body immunity that defend the body from been infected by this disease.

COMMUNITY SPREAD: This means the condition in which this disease spread rapidly in the community.

CONTAINMENT: This is the act of containing or keeping this disease from spreading.

COVID-19: This is the name of this disease that affect the people globally.

BAN: It is the term used to restrict people from travelling, social gathering etc just to avoid being contacting with this disease.

CONTACT-TRACING: This is the term used to identify and test the people with this disease.

CURFEW: This means the time when this disease manifests from the body of the infected person.

SOCIAL OR PHYSICAL DISTANCING: This refers to the process in which people stand in some distance say two to three meters from one another most especially in the crowd e.g. social gathering.

DRIVE- THROUGH- TESTING: This means the measure in which the infected persons are carefully tested from time to time in order to ensure that he/she is free from this disease.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE: This is the service rendered to ensure that people are safe against this disease e.g. messages on covid-19 by radios and televisions etc.

ENDEMIC: This term refers to those diseases which are constantly present in the bodies of people of certain ages or classes e.g. cancer, diabetes, hypertension etc.

EPIDEMIC: This is the term used to indicate the widespread of an outbreak or disease e.g. covid-19 pandemic.

FLATTEN THE CURVE: This means to slow the rate of this infection or disease.

GARLIC: This is natural plant with medicinal value that is used to cure this disease.

HARD IMMUNITY: This refers to people with hard antibodies which can prevent them from being infected with this disease.

INCUBATION: This means the period between the time ones contracted with this disease and the time it shows symptoms.

JOB LOSS: This is the term used to show that this disease lead many people to lost their jobs or cutting of salaries to some workers.

KITS: This means the apparatus used for testing the infected persons in order to avoid this disease from passing from one person to another.

LOCKDOWN: Is the term used to show the restriction of movement of people from one place to another purposely to avoid being contracted with this disease.

MASK: This is the apparatus or object wear by people on their faces when going out to prevent them from being contracted with this disease.

PANDEMIC: This is the term used to show that this disease spread largely and affect the health beings of the people worldwide.

RECOVERY: This means the time when people infected with this disease have been cured after undergoing recommended test and discovered that they are free from this disease.

SANITISER: This means washing of hands with water or liquid chemical by people in the society in order to prevent this disease from contracting them.

TRANSMISSION: This is the term used to show the spread of this disease from one person to another in the society.

UNDERLYING CONDITION: This means medical condition which is chronic and requires long term treatment. E.g. covid-19.

VENTILATOR: It is a machine used for breathing by the person suffering from this disease.

WHO: This is an abbreviation of World Health Organization a body responsible for taking care of this disease globally.

XENOPHOBIA: This refers to fear of being infected with this disease in the society.

ZOONOTIC: This refers to a disease peculiar to animals but has the tendency of transferring to human e.g. covid-19 pandemic.

INDEX PERSON: This means the first person to contract this disease in the society.

INDEX CASE: This means the first documented case of any disease e.g. covid-pandemic.

COVID PNEUMONIA: This is the lung infection which cause the air sac of infected person with covid-19 to fill with fluid.

COVID TOE: This refers to red or purple bump which appear on the toes of people with this disease.

FATALITY RATE: This is otherwise known as fatality risk. It is the percentage of people contracted with this disease.

IMMONOCOMPROMISED: This refers to people with weak immune system caused by some diseases e.g. cancer, HIV, hypertension etc. Also, this make them vulnerable to this disease and can easily die when contracted.

4.2 DISCUSSION

It could be deduced from this analysis that many words are coined and used to create awareness to the people about this pandemic and this shown how instrumental the language was in creating

awareness to the people about this pandemic. Also it was equally observed that language effectively made people conscious of the preventive measures, Symptoms and ways in which they can stay safe against this disease in their societies. Also these coined words added more value to the lexical inventory of many languages especially English Language.

4.3 FINDINGS

From the above discussion, it is deduced that language served as an instrument for creating awareness to the people against covid-19 pandemic. More words are coined and used by different people purposely to create awareness of the danger of this disease to human lives. Also with these lexical and semantic aspects of language, people learnt how stay safe and to prevent themselves from this disease. Again, with these lexical and semantic inventories, people understood how new words are coined and used to create understanding about this disease, how it started, spread, its symptoms and ways of preventing in their societies.

V. CONCLUSION:

It was seen that the definitions and some few functions of language were observed and the history of covid-19 was equally observed. Again the data was obtained from the secondary source which include text books, internets and other written material. This data was lexical aspect of language which was further analyzed semantically to show that language can be used as an instrument for mobilizing people against the danger of covid-19 pandemic which became the deadly disease killing many people globally. Many words were coined purposely to enable the people to understand how to prevent themselves in their societies.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That languages should be given much attention for they serve as tool for creating awareness to the people.
- That the government of any country should plan for their languages in order to prevent them from extinction.
- That indigenous languages should be giving more media attention especially to those that do not understand these foreign languages eg English Language.
- That people should try to make use of all the measures identified by World Health Organization which were fully expressed in their languages in order to stay safe and healthy against this disease in their societies.

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