

Igbo political terminology

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Abstract

The Igbo live in the southeast of Nigeria and constitute a sizable population of the country. There is the need therefore to develop the language spoken by the people to a large extent through the creation of terms. This is the contribution of this work. Particularly, the work designs and presents a total of one hundred and seventy English political terms and other expressions in Igbo. Different methods of term creation as proposed by (Dubuc 1978) have been used. That is, some of terms have been created basically by explanation, composition techniques, adaptation, and naturalization. It is believed that this work will be immensely beneficial to the broadcast media, and schools in teaching and learning civics and social studies.

Introduction

Political terminology deals with political terms. Most of the existing Igbo political terms are of English origin and that is why an attempt is being made to add to the existing works already done by bodies like SPILC (The society for promoting Igbo language and culture), the National language centre (NLC) and others who have tried through their several publications to meet the terminological demands of the Igbo language.

It is worthy of note that term creation did not start today, it started as far back as Plato around 428- 347 BC. For many years linguists, lexicographers, encyclopaedists, and terminologists have carried out researches into the system and methods of naming things. In the 8th century, the system of naming things was known as nomenclature (Rev, 1979: 6:7). In the 19th century in France, the system of naming things came to be called terminology. This word terminology was derived from the word term. The word term has been defined by Petit Robert dictionary as:

A unit of denomination belonging to a terminology. A group of words or expressions chosen to convey message ... A word belonging to a specialized vocabulary and which is not of common usage e.g. technical term, philosophical term, legal term etc.

Deductively from the above, terminology is the study and the use of terms.

Methodology

English political terms used here have been collected from newspapers, magazines and political science textbooks. A total of one hundred and sixty seven were collected. Different methods of term creation as proposed by (Dubuc 1978) were used. Some terms were created by explanation, composition techniques, adaptation, naturalization etc. In addition to the methods, the writer consulted many relevant texts, some colleagues in field of term creation, reporters and news broadcasters in the Igbo language at the Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS). More importantly, she tried as much as possible to strictly adhere to the systems of writing the Igbo language, e.g.: commission, kpmishon.

The need for creation of political terms in Igbo

Terms are special registers made for a particular field of study. A term must be a noun or of the nominal group (Dubuc 1978). Terms are created to satisfy the needs of people in order to communicate from one language to another. According to Dubuc (1978), there are two methods of term creation viz-direct and indirect methods. Direct method is divided into two: namely derivation and composition. Under derivation we have the following: normal derivation, regressive derivation, derivation by prefixation and derivation by interfix. Under composition we have joining prefix to word, joining two or more full meaning words, back formation, abbreviation, acronyms, sigla and hybridization. Indirect formation of terms includes semantic extension, change of grammatical category and loaning of words. These are further divided into sub categories numerous to mention. These methods are applied in this work in order to achieve the best results.



There is the need for political terms that exist in English to be translated into the Igbo language because the Igbo language is under the process of development. Also in the day to day running of affairs like in the media houses, there is always the need for the translators to translate these English political terms into their appropriate Igbo equivalents in order to bring home their ideas, especially now that we are in a democratic dispensation.

In fact, the political terms in Igbo would serve to bridge the awareness gap between the educated and the uneducated. Moreover, since these English political terms are foreign and have foreign culture embedded in them the need to create the equivalent political terms in Igbo becomes imperative as a means of solving the cultural and linguistic problems inherent in the use of the English terms. Ezeuko (2005) captures this, 'the purpose of reaching out to the generality of the people through translation in Nigerian languages especially in Igbo language is to remove the cobwebs surrounding the full understanding of these foreign concepts.'

Creation of Igbo political terminology

In the table below, we present the English political terms and their Igbo translation. For ease in reference, the items have been numbered and arranged alphabetically using only the initial letters. We showed the translation method adopted for each listed item. For example, item 163, "vote" is translated as vootu, and the translation method is naturalization.

S/N	English item	Igbo translation	Method of translation applied
1	agenda building	iweputa atumatu	equivalence
2	ambassador	onye nnochitte anya na mba ofesi	by composition sentential
3	anarchism	enweghi usoro ochjchj	by composition
4	anarchy	ebe iwu adighj	equivalence
5	alliance	njikota ony	by composition
6	balance of power	ndaba ikike	equivalence

7	candidate	onye na-azọ ọchịchị	definition
8	challenger	oche aka mgbà	definition
9	checks & balances	lhu na ihe na-aga nke ọma	definition
10	civil right	ikike mmadụ nwere	definition
11	closed primary	nhọputa nke nta nke mmadu ole na ole a họtara na-esonye	definition
12	colonialism	inọ n'okpuru ọchịchị ndị ofesi	by composition
13	competence	ozuzu oke	equivalence
14	commission	kọmishọn	naturalization
15	congress	ogbakọ ukwu	equivalence
16	conflict	dọgadọga	adaptation
17	congressional campaign	lchụ nta nkwado nke kongres	by composition
18	constitution	akwukwọ iwu	equivalence
19	critical election	nhọputa dij oke mkpa	definition
20	consensus	nkwekọrita	equivalence
21	convention	usoro ọha nabatara	analogy of meaning
22	conference committee	otu kọmittee ọgbako	naturalization
23	constituents	Ọgbọ nta vootu	equivalence
24	civil service	Ọlụ oyibo	coinage
25	declaration of rights	igosisiputa ikike onye nwere	by composition
26	direct lobbying	lchụ nta nkwado n'onye n'onye	by composition
27	defense	nchedo	equivalence
28	defense policy	iwu nchedo	by composition
29	deliberation	mgbagha ntuleuche	by composition
30	demarcation	Oke	equivalence
31	diplomat	onye nnọchite anya mba na mba	definition
32	delegate	onye nnọchite anya	definition
33	democrat	onye kwenyere n' ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya	explanation
34	democracy	Ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya	
35	dictatorship	Ọchịchị akaike	analogy of function
36	diplomacy	izuzu akọ na uche	by composition
37	democratic party	otu ndorondoro ọchịchị onye kwuo uche ya	explanation
38	decentralization	Idj na mpahara	by composition
39	equality	Nhatanha	equivalence
40	election	nhọputa ọchịchị	equivalence

41	electoral college	koleji ndorondoro	naturalization
42	electoral realignment	mgbasa ndorondoro	by composition
43	election campaign	Ichunta vootu	analogy of meaning
44	entrepreneur	onye noro onwe	explanation
45	electoral	gbasara jinye akwukwo	by composition
46	electorate	ndj nwere ihe ntozu n' jinye akwukwo vootu	explanation
47	elected	hopotara	equivalence
48	executive order	iwu ezekutiivu	naturalization
49	franchise	ikikere onwe itu vootu	definition
50	freedom	nnwere onwe	equivalence
51	federal election	nhoputa etiti	by composition
52	feedback	Nzaghachi	equivalence
53	federalism	Qchjchi etiti	by composition
54	formula grants	usoro mmaputa ego	explanation
55	fragmentation	nkegasi	analogy of form
56	general election	nhoputa izugbe	by composition
57	grassroots lobbying	Ichunta nkwardo n'ime ogbe	explanation
58	government	govumentu	naturalization
59	general secretary	ode akwukwo izugbe	coinage
60	heads of state	ndj isi ala	equivalence
61	head quarters	isi obodo	equivalence
62	initiative	ncheputa/amuma	equivalence
63	interest group	otu mmasi	equivalence
64	intergovernmental relations	mmekorita qchjchi na ibe ya	by composition
65	incumbent	onye no n'okwa Qchjchi	by composition
66	interest group	ndj ihe a na-ekwu gbasatara	explanation
67	independence	nnwere onwe	definition
68	implementation	ntinye n' oju	by composition
69	inherent power	ikike onwe	by composition
70	influencing behaviour	agwa na-eweta ngbanwe	by composition
71	joint committee	otu komitee jikoro onu	explanation
72	judgement	Mkpebi	by composition
73	laissez faire	omume ogbasaghi	equivalence
74	lobby	ayom vootu	equivalence

75	lobbyist	onye na-ayo ka atunyere ya vootu	explanation
76	liberty	nnwere onwe	equivalence
77	leader	onye ndu	equivalence
78	legislature	ndj omebe iwu	equivalence
79	legislative organ	otu mmebe iwu	by composition
80	legitimacy	iso usoro iwu	by composition
81	majority group	otu ka n'onu ogy	by composition
82	majority representation	nnochite ndj ka n'onu ogy	by composition
83	mandate	ikike ochichi	by composition
84	minority group	otu nta	equivalence
85	military	ndj agha obodo	logical relationship of mode of action
86	minorities	ndj so n'otu nta	explanation
87	majority rule	ndj ka n'onu ogy	by composition
88	minority rule	Ochichi otu nta	by composition
89	nullification	Nkagbu	equivalence
90	nominate	hoputa	equivalence
91	national convention	Ogbako ala anyi	by composition
92	national committee	otu komitee ala anyi	coinage
93	nation	Mba	equivalence
94	non-governmental organization (ngo's)	otu abughi govumenti nwe	definition
95	national dialogue	ntukorjta uche nke oha obodo	by composition sentential
96	open primary	nhoputa nke nta onye obula ga-esonye	logical relationship by mode of delivery
97	open election	nhoputa enweghi onye o soro	logical relationship by mode of action
98	oversight	atumatu olu njepuga n'ogbe onye	by composition sentential
99	opponents	ndj na eche aka mgba	analogy of function
100	opposition	iche aka mgba	equivalence
101	oligarchy	ndj onu na-eru n'okwu ochichi	definition
102	political ideology	ncheputa ndorondoro	by composition
103	public goods	ihe oha na eze new	by composition
104	police power	ike ndj uwe ojii	courage

105	political equality	nhatanha ndorondoro	by composition
106	public opinion	echiche oha na eze	by composition
107	political participation	nsonye na ndorondoro	by composition
108	political party	otu ndorondoro oghichi	courage
109	political system	usoro ndorondoro oghichi	courage
110	party platform	otu pati onye sonyeere	by composition
111	party identification	ihe nkowa otu ndorondoro oghichi	definition
112	party conference	Ogbako ndorondoro	courage
113	party machine	akorongwa otu ndorondoro oghichi	logical relationship by mode delivery
114	primary election	nhoputa n'ogogo nke nta	by composition
115	presidential	nhoputa nke onye isi ala	by composition
116	program monitoring	inebe anya ka okwe si wee gbaa	by composition
117	policy formulation	mmebe iwu	equivalence
118	preamble	okwu mmalite	equivalence
119	parliamentarians	ndi mmebe iwu n' usoro paliamenti	logical relationship by mode of operation
120	presidential election	ntunye akwukwo maka onye isi ala	logical relationship by mode of effect
121	public opinion	echiche oha na eze	by composition
122	presidential palace	ebe obibi onyeisi ala	by composition
123	politicians	ndi ndorondoro oghichi	by composition
124	power	ikike	equivalence
125	president	onyeisi ala	equivalence
126	populists	Onu n'ekwuchite	equivalence
127	proposal	amuma	equivalence
128	progressive taxation	Utu oru mmepe	by composition
129	project grants	ego a maputara maka oru	by composition
130	political agenda	mbu n' uche out	equivalence
131	proposition	echemeche	equivalence
132	policy evaluation	ntule usoro	explanation
133	poll (opinion)	iju aiju maka echiche ndi mmadu	explanation
134	quorum	nlozu n'onuogu maka ogbako	by composition
135	rights	ihe orubeere onye	equivalence
136	responsiveness	Nzaghachi	equivalence
137	reapportionment	nhoputaghari	equivalence

138	ratification	Nkwado	equivalence
139	rigging	Wuruwuru	logical relationship of mode of delivery
140	regime	oge ọchịchị	equivalence
141	representatives	ndị nnọchi anya	definition
142	republic	ala ebe ndị a họtara na-achị	explanation
143	republicanism	Ọchịchị otu onye isi ala	definition
144	ratification	nnabata mkpebi	by composition
145	referendum	ntụsiaka ndị kwe ndị ekweghi ke ọchịchị	by composition sentential
146	regulation	Usoro	equivalence
147	social equality	nhatanha n'obodo	by composition
148	sovereignty	ichị isi	by composition
149	supportive behaviour	agwa nkwado	by composition
150	seniority	Ika n'ọkwa	by composition
151	state	Steeti	naturalization
152	summit	ogbakọ ndị isi ala	equivalence
153	support	Nkwado	equivalence
154	suffrage	ikike itunye akwukwo	by composition
155	trade association	otu rdị ahịa	by composition
156	trustee	onye so n' otu ntụkwasi obi	definition
157	to gain power	inweta ikike	by composition
158	transition	Mgbanwe	equivalence
159	universal participation	nsonye ọha na eze	by composition
160	unitary government	otu jikọtara ọnyị maka ọ ga n'ihu onwe	explanation
161	unconventional	agbasoghi usoro nnabata	explanation
162	vice president	osote onyeisi ala	by composition
163	vote	Vootu	naturalization
164	veto	enweghi nnabata	by composition
165	welfare state	uru nsiterere n'ọchịchị	by composition
166	whitehouse	ebe obibi onye isi ala mba amerika	explanation
167	written constitution	iwu e dere ede	by composition

Conclusion

This work has presented the translation of a number of political terms from English into Igbo. As stated, the writer has adopted some of translation techniques such as naturalization, definition, structure claque, explanation or paraphrase. The work serves as our modest contribution to the development of the Igbo language.

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