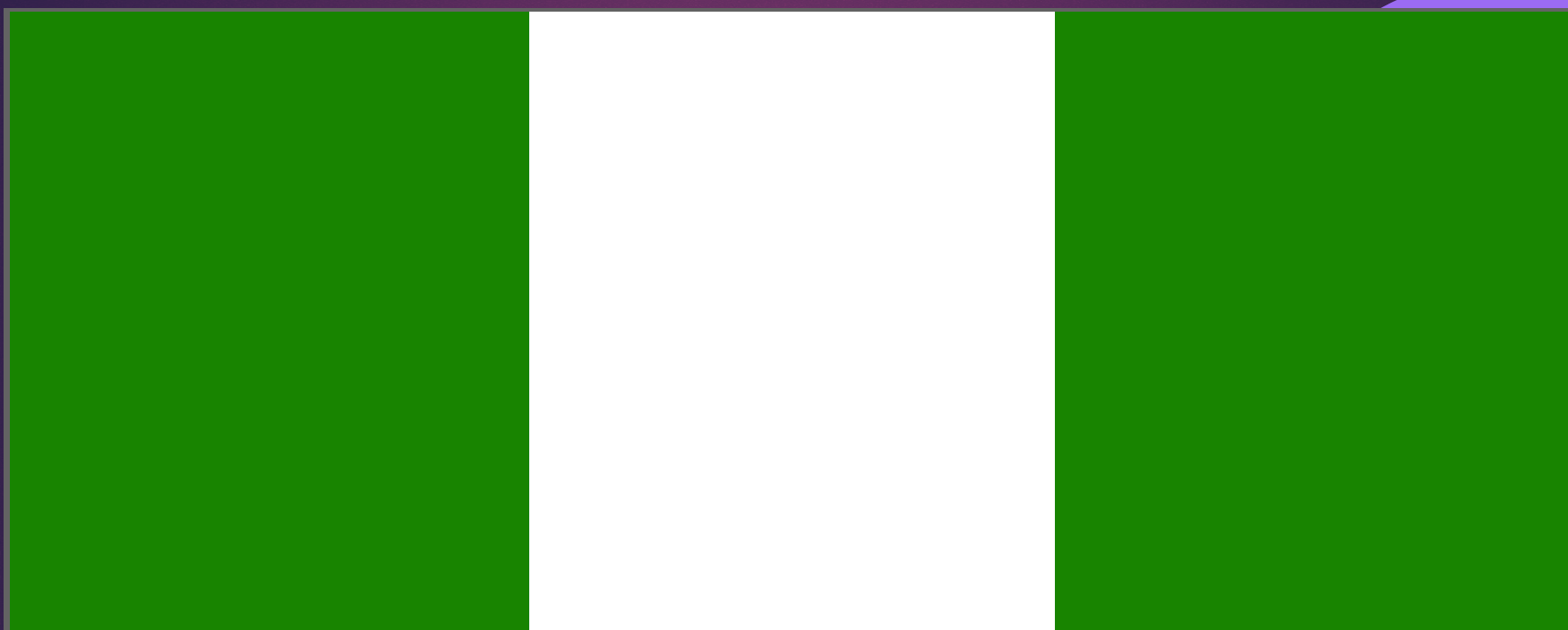


Nigerian Accent features



Afef Missaoui

Nigerian english



The official language of Nigeria, English, was chosen to facilitate the cultural and linguistic unity of the country.


The choice of English as the official language was partially related to the fact that part of Nigerian population spoke English as result of British colonisation that ended in 1960.

English was the first language, however, remains an exclusive preserve to a small minority of the country's urban elite, and it is not spoken at all in some rural areas.

Nigerian Pidgin English, often known simply as Pidgin or broken (broken english), is also popular lingua franca, though with varying regional influences on dialect and slang.


Some features of nigerian english- phonology

- ▶ In discussing variation of Nigerian English Adgbite and Akindede (1999) have identified certain phonological items that tend to show variation in the speech of Nigerian speakers of English, these comprise sounds, stress syllable and intonation.
- ▶ For example there is distinction between short and long vowels /o:/ → [o] and /i:/ → [i]. Vowels are also reduced from their usual qualities especially in the case of the following vowels set /e/ → [ei], /o/ → [u] and /ə/ → [æ], /u/ → [u:].
- ▶ Consonants are on the other hand realized differently voiceless inter-dental fricative /θ/ → /s/ or [t], while the voiced inter-dental fricative /ð/ → [d] or [z].
- ▶ The voiced bilabial fricative and the voiceless stop /v/, /p/ → [f], while alveo-patal fricative /s/ → [s]

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- ▶ Syllable structure in a case where words with consonant clusters such as (CCVC) OR (CCCV) are re-syllabified by breaking the consonant cluster in words such as « bread » /bred/ → [bured] « security » /skuriti/ → [sikuriti] and school /skul/ → [suku:l].

Linguistic features of NE



- ▶ Stress in nigerian english appeared to be influenced by the tone syllable in many nigerian languages and for that reason many english words may be wrongly assigned stress irrespective of their class category.
 - ▶ The following english words may be stressed thus 'madam' [ma'dam], 'recognize' [rekog'niz], 'import' [im'port] and 'record' [re'kord].
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Different form of NE

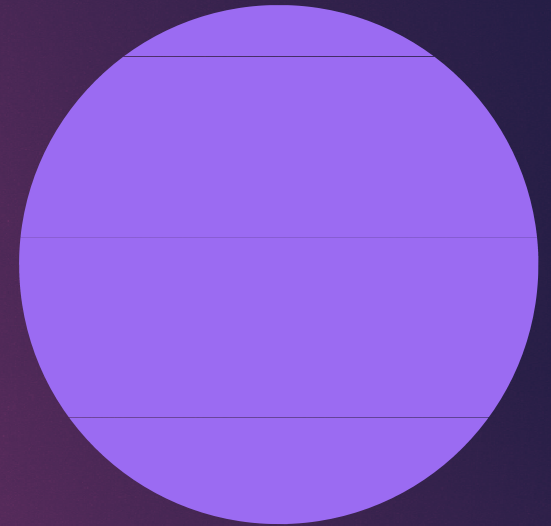
- ▶ The concept Nigerian English in Jowit (1991) term is popular Nigerian English, where he identified every regional block with a particular form of English.
- ▶ For example, Yoruba, with some Nupoid and Edoid groups are identified with a form of English.
- ▶ Igbo and Hausa along with their neighbors were each belongs to a group identified with a particular form of English.
- ▶ One form of English is popular on one region of the country than another, this assertion may bring to mind the existence of many varieties of English in Nigeria

The consonant treatment

- ▶ Consonants which do not exist in all mother tongue speakers' sound systems yet they pose difficulty in pronunciation to some nigerian english speakers and no difficulty to some others.
- ▶ For example the voiceless bilabial stop /p/ and voiced fricative /v/ do not exist in the sound systems of the major nigerian languages, yet they are pronounced perfectly by IGBO and YORUBA and imperfectly by HAUSA .
- ▶ Consonants which exist in some languages and doesn't exist in some others like /ʃ/, /l/, /r/ and /t/ . For example /ʃ/ is difficult to pronounce for Yoruba but easy for others. The /t/ sound on the other hand is not difficult to pronounce by all speakers but in certain linguistic environment it will appear voiced by Igbo speakers.

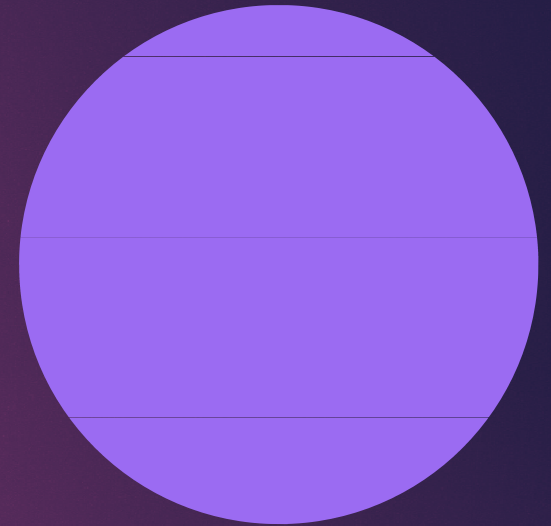
Some examples of phonological adaptation

CS	SE	
▶ [koop]	[kʌp]	cup
▶ [faailot]	[pailət]	pilot
▶ [froblum]	[prɒbləm]	problem
▶ [praayiz]	[prais]	prize
▶ [plaan]	[plæn]	plan



Listen to Nigerian English

- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uR8M8jRKJU>



references

- ▶ <http://www.ijalel.org/pdf/123.pdf>
- ▶ <http://www.ijbhtnet.com/journals/Vol 2 No 6 October 2012/14.pdf>