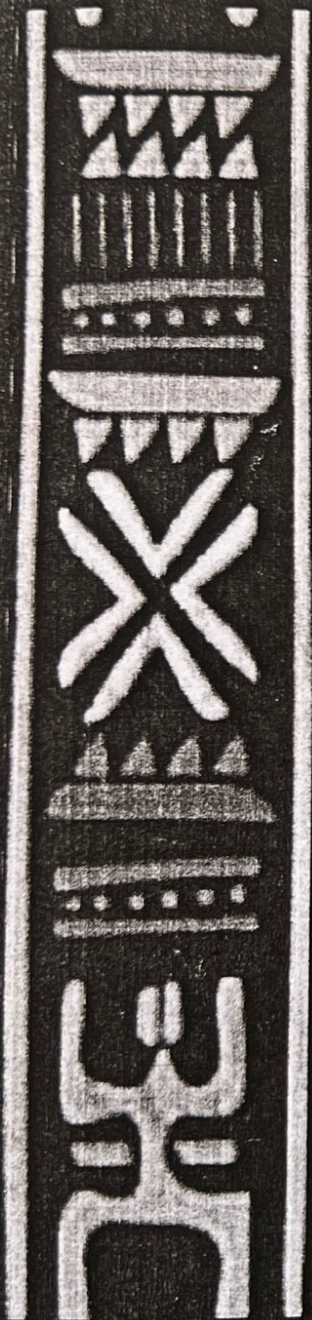
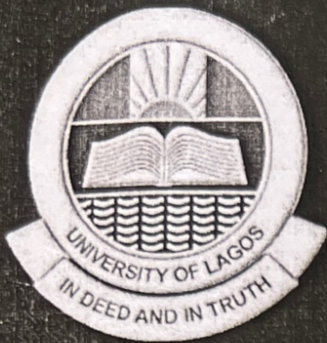




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Correlation between Sociolinguistic Variables and Linguistic Variation in Anambra Igbo

NWOSU, Florence Chika
NNAJI, Charles Ikechukwu

Abstract

This study investigates the connection between the sociolinguistic variables and language variation in Anambra State. The objectives of the study were to: (i) explore the link between language variation and sociolinguistic variables in Anambra Igbo; (ii) examine the sociolinguistic variables that influence linguistic variation in Anambra Igbo; (iii) determine the semantic implications of language variation on Igbo language. The study adopted Communication accommodation Theory as the theoretical framework. To ensure the reliability of the data gathered for the study, the triangulation technique was employed during the gathering of the data for the study by the use of Ibadan 400 wordlist of basic items, interview and observation methods. Purposive sampling method was used to select fifty (50) Anambra Igbo language speakers that cut across various demographic study areas. Using qualitative analysis, the data were analysed to determine how the demographic status of Igbo speakers in Anambra affect their Igbo language use, as well as the semantic implications of any detected variation for Igbo language. The findings show that: (i) the sociolinguistic status of an individual dialect speaker in Anambra State to an extent determines how he/she uses language; (ii) the six major factors recorded as motivators of linguistic variation are age, education, movement, culture, geographical location, language contact/language exposure; and (iii) in spite of the identified linguistic variation in Anambra Igbo as a result of the influence of sociolinguistic variables, the intelligibility was not impaired and the variants provided evidence of synonymy in the language.

Keywords: Linguistic variation, Correlation, Sociolinguistic variables, Anambra Igbo, Communication Accommodation Theory.

1.0 Introduction

This is a sociolinguistic work that aimed at establishing the link between sociolinguistic variables and language variation in Anambra Igbo. Language, with respect to man, involves the production of comprehensible sound by the use of the articulatory speech organs. The

