

NAMING PRACTICES AND IDENTITY AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTHS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, FACULTY
OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Naming Practices and Identity Among Nigerian Youths" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of English Language, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined naming practices and identity among nigerian youths, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of naming; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with naming and practices. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Speech Act Theory and the Systemic Functional Linguistics. A sample size of 403 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 386 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.08). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.547$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.4, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.1$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on naming.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	11
1.8 Definition of Terms	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Conceptual Review	14
2.1.1 Concept of Naming	14
2.1.2 Concept of Practices	15
2.1.3 Concept of Identity	17
2.2 Theoretical Framework	19
2.2.1 Speech Act Theory	19
2.2.2 Systemic Functional Linguistics	20
2.2.3 Relevance Theory	21
2.2.4 Politeness Theory	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.3.1 Early Studies on naming	24
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on naming	25
2.3.3 Naming and practices	27
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	29
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	30
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	33
3.1 Research Design	33
3.2 Population of the Study	33
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	34
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	35
3.5 Research Instrument	36
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	37
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	38
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	39

3.8 Ethical Considerations	40
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	42
4.1 Data Presentation	42
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	42
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	43
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	44
4.5 Discussion of Findings	45
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	50
5.1 Summary	50
5.2 Conclusion	51
5.3 Recommendations	52
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	52
REFERENCES	54
APPENDIX	56

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	31
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	31
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	40
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	41
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	48
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	48
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	48
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	49
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	49
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	49
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	49
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	49

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	13
Figure 3.1: English Language Research Context	41
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	48
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	48

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of naming practices and identity among Nigerian youths is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of naming in shaping developmental trajectories. In Nigeria, the intersection of naming and practices is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. Empirical evidence from Alade and Adeniyi (2021) suggests that positive developments in practices are associated with improvements in naming. For practitioners, the practical significance of naming cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with practices. Comparative work by Famuyide and Eze (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking naming with practices. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In recent years, naming has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on English language. Evidence from national agencies indicates that naming has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. An examination by Eze and Adeniyi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Dauda and Adebayo (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames naming as inseparable from the broader question of practices. In Nigeria, the intersection of naming and practices is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. A notable study by Dauda and Adebayo (2017) argued that the impact of naming is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Empirical evidence from Kalu and Okonkwo (2021) suggests that positive developments in practices are associated with improvements in naming. For practitioners, the practical significance of naming cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with practices. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

In recent years, naming has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on English language. Evidence from national agencies indicates that naming has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. Longitudinal research by Umeh and Ekwueme (2016) revealed that sustained attention to naming yields appreciable dividends over time. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is