

Creating terms in the domain of terrorism: The Igbo experience

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is not new. It has existed since the beginning of recorded history and more particularly after the Second World War Terrorist activities have been witnessed around the world. These attacks have multiplied since the terrorist attack on the United States of America on September 11 2001. In recent times in Nigeria, the unity of the country has been threatened by terrorist activities of the Boko Haram. Nigerians have been exposed to the vocabulary of terrorism like: terrorism, suicide bomber, counter terrorism etc. It is this new trend that heightened our curiosity to want to create terms in this area to enable the speakers of the Igbo language use such terms. To the best of our knowledge, there is no systematized creation of terms in the area of terrorism in the Igbo language. The aim of this paper is to create terms relating to terrorism in the Igbo language. We will discuss briefly the origin of terrorism and confection a bilingual glossary on terrorism.

Keywords: Boko Haram, bombing, terrorism, terrorist attack, terminology.

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INTRODUCTION

Terrorism did not start in the twentieth century. Though it has existed since the beginning of recorded history it can be relatively hard to define. Terrorism has been described variously as both a tactic and a strategy; a crime and a holy duty; a justified reaction to oppression and an inexcusable abomination. Obviously, a lot depends on whose point of view is being represented. Terrorism has often been an effective tactic for the weaker side in a conflict. As an asymmetric form of conflict, it confers coercive power with many of the advantages of military force at a fraction of the cost. Due to the secretive nature and small size of terrorist organizations, they often offer opponents no clear organization to defend against or to deter.

Collins English Dictionary (2000) defines terrorism as a "systematic use of violence and intimidation to achieve some goal".

In some cases, terrorism has been a means to carry on a conflict without the adversary realizing the nature of the threat, mistaking terrorism for criminal activity. Because of these characteristics, terrorism has become increasingly common among those pursuing extreme goals throughout the world. But despite its popularity, terrorism can be a nebulous concept. Even within the

U.S. Government, agencies responsible for different functions in the ongoing fight against terrorism use different definitions.

Terrorism has been defined as producing violence, fear and intimidation in their victims. For example, the United States Department of Defense defines terrorism as "*the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.*" The FBI defines terrorism as "*the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.*" The U.S. Department of State defines terrorism to be "*premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.*"

The United Nations definition of terrorism in 1992 is as follows: "*An anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby - in contrast to assassination - the*

direct targets of violence are not the main targets."

From the above definitions, one can conclude that terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. Terrorists strategize to commit acts of violence that draw the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world at large to their cause.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TERRORISM

The history of terrorism dates back at least 1500 years when Jewish resistance groups (66 to 72 A.D.) known as Zealots killed Roman soldiers and destroyed Roman property. The modern development of terrorism began during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror (1793 to 1794). During this period the term terrorism was first coined. Through the past two hundred years, terrorism has been used to achieve political ends and has developed as a tool for liberation, oppression, etc. (<http://cjc.delaware.gov/terrorism/history.shtml>).

Terrorism in the 1960's through the 1980's was about exposure to one's cause. A terrorist act was followed by credit taking or a warning to the U.S. that future attacks would occur if the U.S. did not change its policies or a way to gain the world's attention to the Palestinian cause.

The 1970's were the decade of air terrorism with more than 20 events of terrorism directed at European and American airlines involving hijackings, bombings and hostage taking. The 1970's also involved bombings, kidnappings and other types of terrorist activity throughout Europe. According to Botha (2007:7), the Algerian terrorist group which fights precisely against France, is linked to Al-Qaeda.

The last decade of the 20th century made another change to the development of terrorism. The 1980's were the decade of hostage taking and terrorism found a target in U.S. interests around the world. Between 1979 and 1988 there were at least twelve incidents of terrorism directed at the U.S. and her interests. These incidents included the hostages in 1979, the bombing of U.S. Embassies, kidnapping of American citizens, and the bombing of airplanes.

The 1990's brought to terrorism, indiscriminate killing and high mass casualty counts for its own sake. It returned to terrorism, religious extremism and hate being enough to justify the use of terror. After two hundred years, terrorism has changed and has been used for a variety of different purposes to achieve various goals. Between 1993 and September 11, 2001 seven terrorist attacks were committed against the U.S. in which the destruction was the point of the attack. Ultimately terrorism became a tool in the change behavior. (<http://cjc.delaware.gov/terrorism/history.shtml>).

Thus international terrorism over the past decade began to constitute the most serious threat to global peace, security and development. This unfortunate development

and all its evil manifestations around the world and particularly in Africa, undermine the most cherished values and fundamental principles of the 21st century including development, democracy, human rights, and freedoms.

Africa and its people have for long experienced various forms of terrorism. The 1998 embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, which killed over 240 Africans and several thousands of others injured, remain the hallmark of terrorism on the continent. (*ibid*)

The toll of terrorism and the price Africans have had to pay for these outrageous criminal acts can hardly be estimated in statistical figures. In the past two decades alone, tens of thousands of Africans have lost their lives; thousands of others have been maimed or injured in one way or the other; thousands more have been deprived of their beloved relatives; and thousands have lost their properties as a result of terrorism. As a threat to both human and state security, terrorism has also made governance and statehood in Africa fragile.

Terrorism in Nigeria

Like other developing countries, Nigeria has had its fair share of terrorism in the recent years. According to Oyeniyi (2010:1), the "Jesse and Odi events in Nigeria are two examples of state terrorism, which have placed Nigeria in the global terrorist map".

In recent times terrorist activities in Nigeria have intensified for example:

- i) October 2010: Abuja attacks, referred as Nigeria Independence day attacks.
- ii) January 1, 2011: bombing at an Abuja army mammy market.
- iii) 2011 Abuja Police headquarters bombing.
- iv) 2011 Abuja United Nations bombing.
- v) 2011 Damaturu attacks.
- vi) April 8, 2011: bombing of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Suleja, Niger State.
- vii) April 26, 2011: bombing in Maiduguri, Borno State.
- viii) May 29, 2011: bombing at an army barrack in Bauchi.
- ix) May 2011 Northern Nigeria bombings (The bombings happened in several towns in Northern Nigeria on May 2011 a few hours after Goodluck Johnathan was sworn in as President of Nigeria) (Daily Independent Newspaper, May 30, 2011).
- x) June 1, 2011: bombing of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Maiduguri.
- xi) June 2, 2011: bombing of Borno State Epidemiological Centre.
- xii) June 16, 2011: bomb explosion killed four children at Damboa town, Maiduguri.
- xiii) June 16, 2011: bombs detonated by Boko Haram

sect at Louis Edet House, headquarters of Nigeria Police Force in Abuja.

xiv) August 26, 2011: car bomb hit United Nations (UN) building in Abuja claiming many lives with Boko Haram claiming responsibility.

xv) April 2012 Kaduna bombings.

xvi) June 2012 Kaduna church bombings

xvii) January 20, 2013: A group of gunmen attacked the convoy of Alhaji Ado Bayero, the Emir of Kano, killing 4 and injuring 14 others, including two of his sons. In addition, militants from the Boko Haram breakaway group Ansaru ambushed a Nigerian Army convoy in Kogi State, killing 2 officers and injuring 8 others. The troops were heading to Mali to assist in the ECOWAS mission as part of the conflict against Jihadist groups

xviii) January 21-23, 2013: Suspected Boko Haram group murdered 31 people over the course of 3 days, including 18 hunters selling bush meat, who were shot at market in Damboa.

xix) January 22, five people were shot in Kano as they were playing board games.

xx) January 23, at least 8 civilians were killed in Maiduguri as gunfire was reported from parts of the city.

xxi) March 9, 2013: The Islamist Ansaru group shot and killed seven hostages it had been holding since an assault on an oil facility in Northern Nigeria on February 7. The victims included four Lebanese, a Briton, a Frenchman and a Greek.

xxii) March 18, 2013: A suicide bomber attacked a bus station in a predominantly Christian area of Kano, killing 41 passengers and injuring dozens more.

xxiii) March 22, 2013: unidentified gunmen attacked at least 13 locations in Ganye, a city in Adamawa State, including the local police HQ, a bank and several local bars. At least 25 people were killed in the two-hour assault, including the deputy chief of the local prison, where 127 inmates were freed.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents,_January%20%80%93June_2013)

In 2014, there were about 22 terrorist attacks including Gumsiri kidnappings, Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping, Federal Government attack, Gwoza massacre, Jos bombings etc.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?search=terrorist+incidents+in+nigeria+2015&title=Special%3ASearch&go=Go>)

In 2015, there are already some attacks: Malari kidnapping, Maiduguri suicide bombing, Potiskum suicide car bombing, Baga massacre, etc. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Terrorist_incidents_in)

The Boko Haram

Boko Haram is a terrorist group in Nigeria. It is an Islamist group founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf. The group's name Boko Haram Jamaatu Ahlil Sunna

Lidawati wal Jihad means "Western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language. Yusuf, who was killed by government forces in 2009, instilled the group with extremist ideology, extolling a version of Islam where any interaction with Western society is considered a sin (fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram). Jama'atu Ansarul Musilimma Fi Biladissudan or Ansaru is a breakaway group from Boko Haram and is a more radicalized group. (<http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/2011/09/19/terrorism-nigeria-rise-boko-haram>)

Common terrorist incidents

The most common types of terrorist incidents include bombing, kidnapping, hostage-taking, armed attack, assassination, arson, fire bombing, hijacking, and skyjacking.

Bombings

Bombings are the most common type of terrorist act. Typically, improvised explosive devices are inexpensive and easy to make. Modern devices are smaller and are harder to detect. They contain very destructive capabilities; for example, on August 7, 1998, two American embassies in Africa were bombed. The bombings claimed the lives of over 200 people, including 12 innocent American citizens, and injured over 5,000 civilians. Terrorists can also use materials that are readily available to the average consumer to construct a bomb.

Kidnappings and hostage-takings

Terrorists use kidnapping and hostage-taking to establish a bargaining position and to elicit publicity. Kidnapping is one of the most difficult acts for a terrorist group to accomplish, but, if a kidnapping is successful, it can gain terrorists money, release of jailed comrades, and publicity for an extended period. Hostage-taking involves the seizure of a facility or location and the taking of hostages. Unlike a kidnapping, hostage-taking provokes a confrontation with authorities. It forces authorities to either make dramatic decisions or to comply with the terrorist's demands. It is overt and designed to attract and hold media attention. The terrorists' intended target is the audience affected by the hostage's confinement, not the hostage.

Armed attacks and assassinations

Armed attacks include raids and ambushes. Assassinations are the killing of a selected victim, usually by bombings or small arms. Drive-by shootings is a

Table 1. Propositions.

| Term | Ezeuko's proposition | Nnabuihe's proposition |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Blast | Mbigbo | Mgbawa |
| Explosive | Mgwambigbo | Kemgbawa |
| Terrorism | Mmenyembaegwu | Myinyeegwu |
| Terrorist | Omenyembaegwu | Oyinyeegwuegbu |
| Suicide bomber | Otuonwuatuegbu | Osochiegbu |

common technique employed by unsophisticated or loosely organized terrorist groups. Historically, terrorists have assassinated specific individuals to create psychological effect.

Arsons and firebombing

Incendiary devices are cheap and easy to hide. Arson and fire bombings are easily conducted by terrorist groups that may not be as well-organized, equipped, or trained as a major terrorist organization. Arson or firebombing against a utility, hotel, government building, or industrial center portrays an image that the ruling government is incapable of maintaining order.

Hijackings and skyjackings

Hijacking is the seizure by force of a surface vehicle, its passengers, and/or its cargo. Skyjacking is the taking of an aircraft, which creates a mobile, hostage barricade situation. It provides terrorists with hostages from many nations and draws heavy media attention. Skyjacking also provides mobility for the terrorists to relocate the aircraft to a country that supports their cause and provides them with a human shield, making retaliation difficult.

Terrorism and terminology

To the best of our knowledge, no known work in the terminology of terrorism in the Igbo language exists. People have written things on terrorist activities; for example Oyeniyi (2010) wrote on the activities of terrorist groups and the Nigerian politics, while Lyman (nd) wrote about war on terrorism in Africa. On his part, Njoku wrote on globalization and terrorism in Nigeria. None of them wrote on the terminology of terrorism in any Nigerian language.

The terms for this study were collected from newspapers, television and radio programmes. (Vanguard, March 17, 2013 "Johnathan's Bornu Visit: The surface-to-air plot that failed" vol. 24. No. 10691072).

METHODOLOGY

Our work is based on socioterminology of Gaudin (2003, 2005).

Socioterminology is the study of terminology within the real use of language in a specific social context. The approach entails a descriptive method of terminology. Socioterminology, defined in Gaudin's words as a "conception sociolinguistique" of the discipline (2003: 154), is directed towards the study of terms in relationship with the contexts in which they appear, that is to say the linguistic, pragmatic, social and historical contexts. It is, in fact, a sociolinguistic approach to terminology that takes into account the analysis of terms (emergence, formation, consolidation and relationships), considering them from a linguistic perspective in social interaction.

We are interested in the socioterminology because of its social dimension with regards to the social values of Igbo concept of terms. It equally has a linguistic dimension because the terms created are linguistic in nature. To collect the necessary information for this paper, we made a documentary research which consists of reading books, journals and newspapers relating to terrorism and we extracted terms relating to terrorism. We equally searched the Internet. The list compiled, we started Looking for the equivalents in the Igbo language. Since no known glossary of terrorism exists in the Igbo language, we made enquiries from some linguists. The linguists interviewed include Dr. Bright Nnabuihe of the University of Lagos, Dr. Romanus Ezeuko of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Dr. Ijeoma Iloene of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and about ten Igbo speakers. We created the remaining terms that we could not get the equivalents from our informants.

PROPOSITIONS

Table 1 shows the propositions. The people we interviewed proposed about eleven terms while we got five terms from the media. Not all terms proposed were accepted. We gave reasons for the rejection of some terms. For example:

For suicide bomber, Nnabuihe proposed *osochiegbu* (one who kills one destined to die). This term was rejected because it could also refer to a murderer. We modified the term proposed by Ezeuko *otuonwuatuegbu* (the group that do not fear death) and created a term that we feel best describes the term: *onyeonwuatuegbu* (one who is not afraid to die). Ezeuko proposed *mbigbo* (something that frightens) for the term explosion but we preferred retaining *mgbawa* (breakage) proposed by Nnabuihe because it is also used by the media. For explosive we accepted *kemgbawa* proposed by Nnabuihe. It is a prepositional derivation and we rejected *mgwambigbo* (weapon of fright). The propositions for the term terrorist are *omenyembaegwu* (one who frightens a nation) and *oyinyeegwuegbu* (one who frightens before killing) by Ezeuko and Nnabuihe respectively. We accepted the first term because a terrorist does not

necessarily frighten before killing. The killing comes unexpectedly. We accepted the second proposition *mmyembaegwu* (frightening a nation) for terrorism and rejected *myinyeegwuegbu* (frightening before killing) for the same reason given above. We accepted Nnabuihe's proposition *ndiaghango* (hidden warriors) for mercenaries because it is also used by the media. From the media, we got such terms as *ndimwakpo* (those who invade) for invaders and *tigbuozogbuo* for violence. We then tried to create a term where we could not find the Igbo equivalent.

METHOD OF TERM CREATION

The principles used in the creation of terms in this work include composition, derivation, borrowing and hybridization. We tried to create terms that can be used by the Igbo language speakers. Some of the terms are created with more than one procedure: hand held grenade = *grenedi keaka* (phonologisation + composition).

Composition

In composition, two words are combined to create a new word. It can be noun + noun, noun + adjective, etc. We have the following examples in our work:

Bombing = *itụ + bọmbụ* = (v + n)
 Invader = *ndi + mwakpo* = (n + n) = *ndimwakpo*
 Terrorism = *myinye + mba + egwu* (v + n + n) = *myinyembaegwu*
 Sword = *mma + agha* (n + n) = *mmaagha*
 Terrorist = *oyinye + mba + egwu* (n + n + n) = *oyinyembaegwu*
 Violence = *tigbuo + zogbuo* (n + n) = *tigbuozogbuo*

Derivation

Derivation is possible when terms are created by the help of affixes. In this work, some terms are created using the genitive construction which expresses a prepositional relationship. The following examples explain more: *nke mgbawa* (*prép + n*) (that of an explosion). This expression begets *kemgbawa* (*prép + n*) = explosive, rifle = *egbe keubu* is derived from *egbe nke ubu*, terrorist pilot = *okwougbouelu kemyinyeegwuegbu*, derived from *okwougbouelu nke myinyeegwuegbu*. *Nke* and *ke* are prepositions. While *ke* is attached to a noun, *nke* is autonomous.

Borrowing

Any language borrows when a given phenomenon does

not exist in the language. The Igbo language is not left out. It borrows when an object has no denomination in the Igbo language. The borrowed words can be translated semantically for example dynamite is translated *ogbunigwe* (killer in mass). The Igbo language can borrow at three levels: phonologically, lexically and morphologically. When we cannot create a term in Igbo, we borrow directly for example Boko Haram, or we calque.

Calque

According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1978: 72) we borrow the phrase from a foreign language but we literally translate the different elements that compose the term. In our work we have: mercenary = *onyeaghango*, bomb attack = *aghaatumbombu*, jihadist = *aghansqalakuḅa*, aeroplane = *ugboelu*.

Phonetical adaptation

The borrowed words can undergo transformations phonetically, morphologically or semantically. In our work we have the following examples: *alkajda*, *bombu*, *grenedi*, *kamikazi*, *magazini*, *motalab*, *nukulja*, *pisuru*, *wokitokj*.

Hybridization

Hybridization is a process of cross breeding two different words to form a new word. The terms can be formed from two different languages. Here are some examples: al-Qaeda movement = *otu alkajda*, Benladinism = *atumatu Benladin*, G3 magazine = *magazini keG3*, AK47 magazine = *magazini keAK47*, FN magazine = *magazini keFN*.

TERMS ON TERRORISM

Modern terrorism started in the 1960s (Chaliand and Blin, 2004: 243). This phenomenon enriches terminology in the area of terrorism because each attack creates new terms. For example in the area of terrorism in Nigeria, we have new terms: *Boko Haram*, *Motalab*, *suicide bomber*, female *suicide bomber* etc.

The terms are arranged alphabetically in Table 2.

CONCLUSION

We have tried to create terms from the area of terrorism in the Igbo language. We made a documentary research,

Table 2. Terms on terrorism.

| English | Igbo | Method of term creation |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Act of terrorism | Iyinyeegwuegbu | Composition |
| AK47 magazine | Magazine keAK47 | Adaptation/hybridization |
| Al-Qaeda | Alkajda | Adaptation |
| Al-Qaeda mouvement | Otu alkajda | Adaptation |
| Ansaru | Ansaru | Direct borrowing |
| Anti aircraft gun | Egbe mgbochi ugboelu | Calque |
| ASsorted ammunition | Ngwaagha di icheiche | Composition |
| Blast | Mgbawa | From our informant |
| Benladenism | Atumatu Benladin | Hybridization |
| Boko Haram | Boko Haram | Direct borrowing |
| Bomb | Bombu | Already existing |
| Bomb attack | Agha atum bombu | From our informant |
| Bomb carrier | Obu bombu | Calque |
| Bombing | Itu bombu | Composition |
| Bulletproof | Uwemgboatu | Composition |
| Car bombing | Iji ugboala atu bombu | Composition |
| Chemical terrorist attack | Aghamyinyeegwuegbu kekemikal | Composition |
| Counter-terrorism | Agha megide myinyeegwu | Composition |
| Dynamite | Ogbunigwe | Calque |
| Explosive | Kembawa | Derivation |
| Female suicide bomber | Nwaanyi onyeonwuatuegwu | Composition |
| Fight against terrorism | Nluso ogu megide myinyeegwuegbu | Composition |
| Gun | Egbe | Already existing |
| Gunman | Onye myinye egwu | Composition |
| Hand held grenade | Grenedi njinaaka | Adaptaion/ composition |
| Hijacked plane | Ugboelu atoratoro | Composition |
| Hostage | Onyeejieji | Composition |
| Hostage taking | Ijidemmadu kpachie | Composition |
| Insurgence | Ogbaghara | Composition |
| Insurgent | Osonye ogbaghara | Calque |
| Invaders | Ndi mwakpo | Composition |
| Islamic jihad | Aghanso alakuba | Calque |
| Islamist terrorist | Onye myinyeegwu kealakuba | Composition/derivation |
| Jihad | Aghanso alakuba | Calque |
| Jihadist | Onye agha nsọ alakuba | Calque |
| Kamikaz | Kamikaz | Adaptation |
| Machine gun | Machingoonu | Adaptation/composition |
| Massacre | Igbummadu nigwe | Composition |
| Mass terrorism | Otu myinyeegwu | Composition |
| Mercenary | Onye aghango | Composition |
| Mutallab | Mutalabu | Adaptation |
| Nuclear terrorisme | Myinyeegwu kenuklia | Composition/adaptation |
| Nuclear weapon | Ngwaagha kenuklia | Composition/adaptation |
| Pistol | Pisuru | Adaptation |
| Rifle | Egbe keubu | Derivation |
| RPG bomb | Bombu keRPG | Adaptation/derivation |
| RPG charges | Ngwaogu keRPG | Composition/adaptation |
| Sect | Otu | Calque |
| Suicide attack | Myinyeegwu kemgbonwe | Composition |
| Suicide bomber | Onye onwuatuegwu | Composition |
| Sword | Mmaagha | Already existing |

Table 2. Terms on terrorism.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Surface-to-air-plot | Izuzu megide nsinaala gaa elu | Calque |
| Teargas | Gaasi nchusasi mmadu | Adaptation/composition |
| Terrorise | Iyinyembaegwu | Composition |
| Terrorism | Myinyembaegwu | Composition |
| Terrorist | Onye myinyembaegwu | Composition |
| Terrorist attack | Agha myinyembaegwu | Composition |
| Terrorist pilot | Okwogbøelu kemyinyembaegwu | Composition |
| VHF hand-held set | Ekwenti njinaake VHF | Composition |
| Violence | Tigbuozogbo | Composition |
| Walkie talkie | Wokitoki | Adaptation |
| Weapon cleaning kit | Kiit nhicha ngwaagha | Composition |
| Wheelbarrow suicide bomber | Onye onwuatuegwu kewilbaro | Composition/adaptation |

listened to the radio, watched the television and made some inquiries in order to get the equivalent of the Igbo terms. Where such equivalents were not found, we created the terms. The mostly used technique in the creation of these terms is composition. We equally used derivation, hybridization and calque. It is our hope that this work will incite others to try to explore other areas of terrorism as there exists cyber terrorism, commercial terrorism etc. as we know we have not covered these aspects in this work. It is our belief that work in the area of terminology will help develop the Igbo language and other indigenous languages. It will also help Igbo translators in their work. We call on terminologists and translators alike to arise and stand up to the challenge of creating specialized terms in Nigerian languages.

Abbreviations

- i) n = noun
- ii) prep = preposition
- iii) v = verb

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