INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGES

Friday, 21st April, 2017

Objectives

- What is Language?
- Forms of a language
- Why we learn a language?

Introduction

When a person talks to you and you understand the person; and then you talk back and the person understands you too, the both of you have communicated. You and that person understand yourselves because you spoke a common language (e.g. Igbo).

Also, when your teacher set an examination question for you, you read what he has written down and then you understand. You then write back to him, answering his question. He would read through your answers and then mark. You and your teacher have communicated. Both you and your teach wrote a common language.

What is Language?

Language is the collection of words (oral or written) that a people understand and use to communicate (i.e. to express their selves).

Forms of a Language?

There are two (2) forms of a language

1. Written form
2. Spoken form
3. Demonstrative form

The written form is usually achieved by writing alphabets on papers; the spoken form is usually achieved by saying out words with the mouth; the demonstrative form is usually achieved by using certain generally accepted demonstrations, gestures and postures to communicate.

Examples of Languages

1. Yoruba language
2. Hausa language
3. Igbo language
4. English language
5. French
6. Spanish
7. Arabic Language
8. Chinese Language

Why we learn a Language?

We learn a language to:

1. express ourselves in that language;
2. understand people who speak that language
3. be able to read books written in that language
4. be able to write that language

Grammar of a Language

Grammar is the set of rules that words of a particular language follow to make sense in that particular language. For example, the political situation is a good English grammar, but in French it is rather the situation political (*la situation politic*) that is a proper grammar.