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# Students' Attitude Towards the use of Library Resources as Determinants of Performance In English Language In Selected Federal and State Schools in Lagos State.

O. O. Makinde

## Abstract

*The study examines the attitude of Students towards the use of library resources and their performance in English Language in two schools (Federal and State) in Lagos State. A sample of one hundred and fifteen students was drawn from the two schools. The subjects responded to a questionnaire entitled "Students' Attitude Towards the Use of Library Resources for the Learning of English". An achievement in English Language test was also administered to the subjects. Three null hypotheses were raised, two of which were not rejected while only one was rejected. The findings are:*

1. *There is no significant relationship between student's attitude towards the use of library and their achievement in English Language*
2. *There is no significant difference between the attitude of students from the State and Federal schools towards the use of Library*
3. *There is no significant difference between the performance of students from State and Federal schools in English Language.*

## Introduction

The history of English Language in Nigerian dates back to about four centuries with the advent of the white man, but the serious study of its adaptation to the Nigerian environment began in 1965 with the inauguration of the Nigerian English Studies Association in Jos (Odum'ah, 1989). He goes on to mention the fact that English is widely used for different purposes in Nigeria ranging from educational, social,

economic to political purposes. Still talking about the importance of the English Language in Nigeria, Hassan (1999) rightly observes that it serves a unifying purpose by providing a common medium of communication for the different ethnic groups in Nigeria.

It is mentioned by Williams (1990) that English Language does not only serve national purpose in Nigeria but an international one also since it is the language Nigeria uses in communicating with the outside world. The role of English language in Nigerian society justifies its being introduced into the school curriculum at all levels of education.

Ayodele, in Hassan (1999) states that English language like Mathematics is a compulsory subject at all pre-tertiary levels of education in Nigeria noting that a credit pass in the subject at either Senior Secondary Certificate Examination or Grade Two Teachers' Examination is required for entry into the tertiary institutions for almost every course. In spite of this fact, the subject is one of the greatest stumbling blocks for Nigerian learners, since failure rate is very high in it because most English Learner's competence is abysmally low (Ajayi, 1996).

## The School Library

The importance of the library cannot be over emphasized. In fact, Adelola (1973) sees the library as a building that stores books and other non-print materials for reading and reference or a collection of print and non-print materials. Fayose (1999), in discussing the school library describes it as that part of the school where an organized collection of print and non-print materials is kept for teaching, learning, personal development and recreation. The importance of the library is also mentioned in Davies (1974) where it is seen as the mainstream of the instructional process that brings about educational excellence.

Olanrewaju (1995) summarises the functions of the school libraries by saying that they are necessary for the total educational development of students by being an important foundation for acquisition of knowledge, serving as refinery for such knowledge acquired and helping to build upon the ideas gained to produce prolific learning processes.

## The Problem

It has been observed by some scholars such as Fadiora (1995) and Hassan (1999) that student's performance in English language at the secondary school level is poor despite the importance of the subject. It has also been established that library resources have certain effects on teaching and learning processes (Muojama, 1988 and Olanriyan, 1998). This paper therefore examined the available library resources in both Federal and State owned secondary schools in order to compare them to see

significant. In other words, there is no significant relationship between students' attitude towards the use of library and their achievement in English language. Therefore, the hypothesis is not rejected.

**Table 1b: Availability of Library Resources for Teaching and Learning English Language**

S/N	English language materials	Federal school	State school
1.	Audio materials/resources	Not available	Not available
2.	Audio visual materials	Not available	Not available
3.	Newspapers	Available and adequate	Available but not adequate
4.	Magazines	Available but not adequate	Available but not adequate
5.	Literary Materials	Available but not adequate	Available but not adequate
6.	Recommended textbools	Available but not adequate	Available but not adequate
7.	Dictionaries	Available and adequate	Available and adequate
8.	Charts e.g., vowel charts	Available but not adequate	Available but not adequate
9.	Past questions (internal exam)	Available and adequate	Available but not adequate
10.	Past questions (external exam)	Available and adequate	Available and adequate

In table 1b above, it could be seen that the schools' libraries are not adequately equipped in all the necessary resources and materials for teaching and learning of English language.

### Hypothesis Two

There is no significant difference between the attitude of students from State and Federal Schools towards the use of library.

**Table 2L Comparison of Subjects' Attitude Towards the Used of Library.**

Groups	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	DF	Calculated t value	2-tail probability	P
State school	55	8.45	2.69	113	3.04	.003	P<0.025 *significant
Federal school	60	9.88	2.35				

$t = 3.04$ ,  $df = 113$ ,  $P < 0.025$  Significant

From Table 3 above, the calculated  $t = 3.04$ , is statistically significant at 0.025 level of confidence, hence the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the attitude of students from State and Federal Schools towards the use of library is rejected.

### Hypothesis Three:

There is no significant difference between the performance of students from State and Federal schools who use the library in English language.

**Table 3: T. Test comparison of Subjects' Achievement of State and Federal Schools.**

Groups	N	X	SD	DF	Calculated t value	2-tail probability	P
State school	55	54.8	7.71	113	1.82	.071	P<0.25 *Not significant
Federal school	60	57.83	9.89				

$t = 1.82$ ,  $df = 113$   $P > 0.025$  Not Significant

As could be seen in table 3, the calculated t value of 1.82 is not significant a 0.025 level of probability. Therefore the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the performance of students from the State and Federal Schools who use the library in English Language is therefore not rejected.

### Discussion and Conclusion

The findings show that there is no significant relationship between students' attitude towards the use of library and their achievement in English Language. This is probably due to the fact that the School Libraries are not rich in the relevant resources for English learning, making it impossible for those who would have made judicious use of the library resources to do so.

Table 2 shows that there is a significant difference between the attitude of students from State and Federal schools towards the use of library with Federal School students having a more positive attitude. This may be due to the fact that most of the students in Federal Schools attend private primary schools where they might have been exposed to libraries and the importance of their resources. Apart from that the Federal Government College used in this study has a relatively bigger library and more reading tables for students than that of the State School.

It was also revealed in Table 3 that the difference in the performance of students in English Language is insignificant. The fact that the State Secondary School that was used for the study is of fairly high standard might be responsible for such result. Unlike most of the other State schools, this particular school has its own library and boarding facilities like Federal Schools which make it possible for the students to study privately and to be monitored while in school. This shows that if all the state schools could be well-funded and properly managed like Federal Schools, the performance of the students in state schools will improve or be as good as those of the students in Federal Schools. However, the minimal difference in the performance of students might be due to the fact that Federal schools are more favoured in terms of manpower supply.

### Conclusion

This research reveals the importance of the school library and its resources but it has been observed that library, both in Federal and State schools are not being adequately funded going by the amount of resources found in the libraries of these schools. This fact is revealed in Table 1b by the inadequacy of most of the available library resources found in both schools and the non-availability of some very important resources needed for teaching and learning English language. Considering the fact that availability of teaching and learning resources in the library have certain effects on students' performance (Muojama, 1988 and Olaniyan, 1998), the stakeholders in education must ensure that libraries are adequately equipped.

Therefore it would be of immense benefit to the secondary school community if both Federal and State governments can provide adequate funds for the establishment and maintenance of virile libraries in all secondary schools.

The study also reveals that given equal opportunities, students in both Federal and State schools might have the same performance level, but presently the students in the state schools need more orientation or awareness about the importance of the school library and its resources. To make this possible, the school administrators must ensure that the right orientation is given to their students about the use of the library.

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