The Economic Benefit of Language in Creating Awareness to the People during and Post Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT: As a tool of creating awareness and understanding among the various people in the world, language has the power to mobilize people on how to prevent themselves against the Covid-19 pandemic. So this paper aims in addressing the economic benefit of language during and post Covid-19 pandemic. It states briefly the definition some few functions of language and reviews some of the existed works on Corona virus Pandemic. It equally highlights the countries infected with this pandemic globally in which some are successfully cured and others died. Finally the paper recommends some preventive measures to be considered by the government of any country where this pandemic is still a worrisome.
KEY WORDS: Language, Covid-19 pandemic SARS- Covid 2, Wuhan, I.C.T

I. INTRODUCTION
For the purpose of understanding the message of this paper clearly, let us start with the definition and some few functions of language. Language like any other concept has several definitions. This is of course due to the fact that people seem to view things from various perspectives. However most of the definitions of language seem to have some similarities. So, according to Pearson et al (2003) "Language is collection of Symbols, letters or words with arbitrary meaning that are governed by rules used to communicate. Also, Adebayo and Ojo (2010)" define language as phenomenon that allow human-beings to communicate or their feelings, aspiration and desires in their society "Again, Shedrack (2001) believes that "Language is a medium through which stimuli be relayed from one individual to another so as to provoke reaction". So, it is generally to agree that language is said to be the medium for communication among the various group of people in the society. Having seen

these definitions of language Also, the different people now how does it functions in the society by its users.

SOME FUNCTIONS OF LANGUAGE
Language functions in several ways as could be seen below:

Means of communication: language is the major tool or means of communication by various people living in the society. Dele (1976) believes 'that in every aspect and interaction in our everyday live, we use language to tell people what we like, question and understand our world. We communicate very well with our words, gestures and tone of voice in multiple situations'. So, language serves as means of communicating our messages to other people.

Cultural identify: language is the major tool that identify its speakers wherever they found themselves. Pinta and Yakubu (2011) believe "that language is the major cultural aspects which easily identify the people in the society". Therefore language is the only tool that identifies its speakers wherever they find themselves.

Tool for national development: Language is so viable in the development process that ensures the social, cultural, economic and technological transformation of the society "(www. Josrjound.org). Language plays a vital role in the development of any nation because all its resources both human and natural are express and understand fully through the language.

Tool for ethnic unity: Language is the powerful tool for ethnic integration. Pinta and Yakubu (2014) observe 'that language is the powerful tool for ethnic unity. It is the tool that bind its speakers together which enable them to see themselves as one and work together to achieve their aims'. So this function of language enable each tribe to unite

to identify their norms and value that will guide their lives in any society they find themselves.

Tool for socialization: Language serves as a means of socialization because we use it to express our ideas, felling and desires to the extent that it is easily understood by others. The characteristics of human language provide the ground for us to express our idea, feelings and other functions which make language a powerful tool for understanding the Covid-19 pandemic among the various people in the society. Also, the definition giving by Adebayo and Qjo (2010}is used as a guide to this work.

Furthermore, the term economic benefit of language is used in this discussion to means that language is the only tool that create awareness and understanding concerning the Covid-19 pandemic through its written or spoken form, sign language, information and communication technology etc to make people stay safe and healthy and discharge their daily activities either in offices, factories or any working environment to earn their living.

Having seen the definitions and functions of language, now let us revised some existing work on Covid-19 pandemic.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: According to world health organization the term is used to means an infectious disease caused by SARS-COV-2 virus. Also most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can be sick with Covid-19 and consequently become ill or die at any age.

HOW IT STARTED (GENESIS OF IT)

According to yen-chin and Skingru (2020) Corona-virus pandemic known as Covid-19 has become the fifth documented pandemic sine the 1918 flu pandemic. Covid-19 is firstly reported in Wuhan in china which is a country in the Asian continent. According to the international committee on Taxonomy of virus base on Phylogenetic analysis (ICTVPA), the Corona-virus was officially named severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-COV-2). SARS-COV-2 is said to be a spillover of an animal corona virus and later adopted the capacity of human- to human transmission consequently, the virus highly contagious, it rapidly spreads and continuously evolves in the over-the world.

SOME COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

As earlier stated that the disease is highly communicable and rapidly spread, it affected many countries in the world. According to an update October 02, 2021, 10:49 GMT, the number of countries affected by corona virus pandemic is 221countries and territories around the globe. Also, a total of 235,145285 cases are confirmed and a death toll of 4, 807,423 people are equally confirmed (www.coronavirus/countries.com). Below is a table showing the names of countries, cases of corona virus, number of people dead and the region where the countries belong:

Country	Cases	Deaths	Region
United States	44,443,405	718,984	North America
India	33,791,061	448,605	Asia
Brazil	21,445,651	597,292	South America
United Kingdom	7,841,625	136,789	Europe
Russia	7,560,767	209,028	Europe

Turkey	7,182,943	64,264	Asia
France	7,018,367	116,759	Europe
Iran	5,601,565	120,663	Asia
Argentina	5,258,466	115,225	South America
Spain	4,961,128	86,463	Europe
Colombia	4,959,144	126,336	South America
Italy	4,675,758	130,973	Europe
Germany	4,250,995	94,254	Europe
Indonesia	4,218,142	142,115	Asia
Mexico	3,671,611	277,976	North America
Poland	2,909,776	75,689	Europe
South Africa	2,904,307	87,705	Africa
Philippines	2,580,173	38,656	Asia
Ukraine	2,447,222	56,649	Europe
Malaysia	2,257,584	26,456	Asia
Peru	2,177,283	199,423	South America
Iraq	2,005,991	22,302	Asia

Netherlands	2,004,763	18,176	Europe
Japan(+Diamond Princess)	1,703,531	17,696	Asia
Czech Republic(Czechia)	1,693,234	30,477	Europe
Chile	1,655,071	37,476	South America
Canada	1,629,142	27,921	North America
Thailand	1,626,604	16,937	Asia
Bangladesh	1,556,758	27,531	Asia
Israel	1,285,570	7,766	Asia
Pakistan	1,248,202	27,831	Asia
Belgium	1,247,197	25,612	Europe
Romania	1,244,555	37,210	Europe
Sweden	1,153,655	14,827	Europe
Portugal	1,069,975	17,979	Europe
Serbia	949,260	8,280	Europe
Morocco	934,007	14,290	Africa
Kazakhstan	889,040	11,253	Asia
Cuba	882,477	7,486	North America
Switzerland	841,571	11,105	Europe

Jordan	824,697	10,727	Asia
Hungary	823,384	30,199	Europe
Vietnam	797,712	19,437	Asia
Nepal	795,959	11,148	Asia
Austria	744,964	11,014	Europe
United Arab Emirates	736,524	2,100	Asia
Tunisia	707,548	24,901	Africa
Greece	658,368	14,860	Europe
Lebanon	624,743	8,333	Asia
Georgia	616,589	9,005	Asia
Guatemala	563,257	13,625	North America
Saudi Arabia	547,179	8,719	Asia
Belarus	540,079	4,159	Europe
Costa Rica	533,873	6,413	North America
Sri Lanka	518,775	12,964	Asia
Ecuador	509,238	32,762	South America
Bulgaria	504,253	20,969	Europe

Bolivia	500,823	18,750	South America
Azerbaijan	484,591	6,543	Asia
Panama	467,338	7,230	North America
Myanmar	465,922	17,789	Asia
Paraguay	459,997	16,200	South America
Slovakia	413,723	12,649	Europe
Kuwait	411,690	2,450	Asia
Croatia	406,307	8,650	Europe
State of Palestine	405,056	4,120	Asia
Ireland	390,989	5,249	Europe
Uruguay	389,025	6,056	South America
Venezuela	370,368	4,483	South America
Honduras	367,275	9,855	North America
Dominican Republic	359,597	4,049	North America
Denmark	359,237	2,659	Europe
Ethiopia	347,084	5,630	Africa
Libya	341,091	4,664	Africa

Lithuania	335,801	5,041	Europe
South Korea	316,020	2,504	Asia
Mongolia	309,064	1,314	Asia
Egypt	305,269	17,367	Africa
Oman	303,769	4,096	Asia
Moldova	295,681	6,803	Europe
Slovenia	295,328	4,569	Europe
Bahrain	275,130	1,389	Asia
Armenia	263,783	5,354	Asia
Kenya	249,725	5,128	Africa
Qatar	236,735	606	Asia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	235,536	10,635	Europe
Zambia	209,114	3,649	Africa

Nigeria	205,940	2,724	Africa
Algeria	203,517	5,815	Africa
North Macedonia	191,820	6,683	Europe
Norway	189,915	861	Europe

Botswana	179,220	2,368	Africa
Kyrgyzstan	178,680	2,607	Asia
Uzbekistan	174,879	1,245	Asia
Albania	170,778	2,705	Europe
Latvia	160,608	2,731	Europe
Estonia	157,728	1,360	Europe
Afghanistan	155,263	7,212	Asia
Mozambique	150,759	1,918	Africa
Finland	142,114	1,062	Europe
Montenegro	131,946	1,928	Europe
Zimbabwe	131,028	4,624	Africa
Namibia	127,680	3,514	Africa
Ghana	127,482	1,156	Africa
Uganda	123,742	3,159	Africa
Cyprus	118,421	553	Asia
Cambodia	113,057	2,360	Asia
Australia	109,516	1,321	Australia/Oceania
ElSalvador	104,348	3,245	North America

Singapore	99,430	103	Asia
Rwanda	97,695	1,276	Africa
China	96,203	4,636	Asia
Cameroon	92,303	1,459	Africa
Maldives	84,866	231	Asia
Jamaica	84,069	1,877	North America
Luxembourg	78,326	835	Europe
Senegal	73,782	1,858	Africa
Malawi	61,597	2,282	Africa
Côted'Ivoire	60,335	631	Africa
Angola	58,076	1,567	Africa
DRCongo	56,997	1,084	Africa
Réunion	53,682	366	Africa
Guadeloupe	53,585	708	North America
Fiji	51,168	632	Australia/Oceania
Trinidad and Tobago	50,903	1,489	North America
Eswatini	45,971	1,223	Africa
Madagascar	42,898	958	Africa

Suriname	41,867	893	South America
French Guiana	41,325	268	South America
Martinique	41,129	608	North America
French Polynesia	40,178	623	Australia/Oceania

Sudan	38,263	2,902	Africa
Cabe Verde	37,604	340	Africa
Malta	37,163	458	Europe
Mauritania	36,079	776	Africa
Syria	34,460	2,257	Asia
Guyana	32,055	792	South America
Gabon	30,648	190	Africa
Guinea	30,420	379	Africa
Tanzania	25,846	719	Africa
Togo	25,429	229	Africa
Laos	24,310	20	Asia
Benin	23,890	159	Africa
Haiti	21,972	615	North America
Seychelles	21,347	115	Africa

Lesotho	21,320	633	Africa
Bahamas	21,114	533	North America
Belize	21,003	418	North America
Papua New Guinea	20,455	234	Australia/Oceania
Mayotte	20,323	180	Africa
Somalia	19,980	1,111	Africa
Timor-Leste	19,563	118	Asia
Burundi	17,979	38	Africa

Tajikistan	17,084	124	Asia
Curaçao	16,556	163	North America
Taiwan	16,234	843	Asia
Mauritius	15,695	84	Africa
Aruba	15,514	166	North America
Mali	15,255	549	Africa
Andorra	15,222	130	Europe
Nicaragua	14,448	204	North America
Congo	14,359	197	Africa

Burkina Faso	14,262	184	Africa
Djibouti	12,870	167	Africa
Equatorial Guinea	12,362	147	Africa
Hong Kong	12,227	213	Asia
South Sudan	12,021	130	Africa
Iceland	11,839	33	Europe
Channel Islands	11,657	97	Europe
Saint Lucia	11,573	207	North America
Central African Republic	11,371	100	Africa
Gambia	9,935	338	Africa
Yemen	9,111	1,729	Asia
Barbados	8,609	78	North America
New Caledonia	7,932	142	Australia/Oceania
Isle of Man	7,611	52	Europe
Brunei	7,326	43	Asia
Eritrea	6,722	42	Africa
Sierra Leone	6,394	121	Africa

Guinea-Bissau	6,110	135	Africa
Niger	6,025	203	Africa
Liberia	5,799	286	Africa
Gibraltar	5,555	97	Europe
San Marino	5,428	91	Europe
Bermuda	5,244	72	North America
Grenada	5,236	150	North America
Chad	5,042	174	Africa
New Zealand	4,319	27	Australia/Oceania
Sint Maarten	4,307	66	North America
Comoros	4,147	147	Africa
Saint Martin	3,748	55	North America
Dominica	3,602	21	North America
St. Vincent & Grenadines	3,563	26	North America
Sao Tome & Principe	3,504	51	Africa
Liechtenstein	3,448	60	Europe
Antigua and Barbuda	3,336	81	North America
Monaco	3,314	33	Europe

Turks and Caicos	2,859	23	North America
British Virgin Islands	2,642	37	North America
Bhutan	2,601	3	Asia
Caribbean Netherlands	2,116	19	North America
Saint Kitts & Nevis	1,965	13	North America
Saint Barthelme	1,578	4	North America
Faeroe Islands	1,178	2	Europe
Cayman Islands	853	2	North America
Greenland	584	0	North America
Wallis & Futuna	445	7	Australia/Oceania
Anguilla	425	1	North America
Macao	71	0	Asia
Falkland Islands	67	0	South America
Montserrat	34	1	North America
Saint Pierre & Miquelon	31	0	North America
Holy See	27	0	Europe
Solomon Islands	20	0	Australia/Oceania

Western Sahara	10	1	Africa
MS Zaandam	9	2	
Palau	5	0	Australia/Oceania
Vanuatu	4	1	Australia/Oceania
Marshall Islands	4	0	Australia/Oceania

Samoa	3	0	Australia/Oceania
Saint Helena	2	0	Africa
Micronesia	1	0	Australia/Oceania

THE MEASURES TAKING IN CURBING OR MINIMIZING THE CORONA-VIRUS PANDEMIC:

The idea of finding out any problem is to provide solution. So, as Covid-19 pandemic continuous as bush fire around the globe, many measures are developed in order to stop or minimize this disease. Some of the measures itemized by WHO [i.e. world health organization] includes:

➢ Social distance in which people are advised to stand from one another for some meters, since the disease is contagious.
➢ Wearing of face marks in order to prevent the virus from entering into the nose of people when coughing by the infected person.
➢ Frequent washing of hands birth water and detergent to avoid land contact with the infected persons.
➢ Use of hand sanitizer that easily kills the virus when contacted with the infected persons.
➢ Staying at home order purposely to avoid contact with the infected persons in crowd.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF LANGUAGE IN CREATING AWARENESS DURING AND POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Having reviewed some existing information on corona-virus pandemic, now let us look in at the **economic** benefit of language in creating awareness to the people during and post Covid-19 pandemic. The term language is used in this discussion to symbolize all forms of communication being it verbal or nonverbal means. The term verbal is equally used here to show all forms of communication conducted either in English language, indigenous languages or all natural language used to create awareness or understanding of the Covid-19 pandemic, its symptoms or ways of preventing among the people in the society. Also, the nonverbal form of language include sign language, printed media or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) used for the transmission of information with regard to covic-19 pandemic among the various group of people living in the society, state or country.

Initially, the Covid-19 pandemic started by an infordemic, a spread of disinformation and misinformation making it difficult to find accurate life – saving information. Accurate messages or information on physical distances, hygiene, quarantine and prevention which must reach everybody. This equally shows that this disease spreads vulnerably in the countries with high level of poverty and malnutrition. Base on this therefore, it is imperative to ensure that there is sharing of correct life-saving information and resources about this serious disease. So, languages play powerful role in this regard as they are part of human right

and fundamental freedom to their users, which give them access to accurate live saving information and healthcare. Moreover, many measures are devised to make people safe against this disease. Also these measures are fully explained through the use of languages among the various people in the world. It is obvious that it is only when one is healthily fit, then he is expected to contribute economically to the development of his live, society and nation in general. So, language provides the ground for one to be well informed about all the measures and precautions provided against the corona-virus pandemic. Before we were asked to remain at home watching television and videos but today we are well taught on the measures to apply in order to minimize if not tally eliminate this disease. Base on this also our work ability in offices, factories, social gatherings and like have improved. Our national economic has now raised and the level of poverty caused by the pandemic has minimized.

III.   CONCLUSION:

It is no doubt that corona virus pandemic has affected the health being of the people around the globe and some preventive measures are taking to curb or stop the disease. It is equally understood that these preventative measures are properly explained via languages for the people and this consequently made a significant and economical contribution to the health and safety of the lives of people around the globe. However, more cases of this disease are confirmed globally in which some are treated and successfully cured while others lead to death. Also, many countries in the world are infected as could be seen in the table above. Having said all these, there are needs for the countries in the world especially where this disease is still manifesting to properly consider the following recommendations;

RECOMMENDATIONS

➢ That face marks should be used continuously most especially in the infected countries.

➢ That hand washing should be properly done whenever there is contact with people especially in the crowd.

➢ That sanitizer should be used frequently in all working environment regardless of whether you are working in that environment or a visitor.

➢ That countries or organizations which are financially stable should lay a helping hand to those countries leaving in poverty. This will go a long way in minimizing the poverty level of the poor people in those countries.

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