

Foreword

Nigerian Pidgin (NP) has in recent times received considerable attention from linguistic scholars and other interested stakeholders. I was particularly glad to learn that corporate members of Unicode (including Adobe, Apple, Facebook, Google, IBM, Microsoft, Netflix and SAP SE) launched a dedicated NP keyboard on October 28, 2020 (Roy Okonkwo: personal communication). The keyboard uses NP standardised orthography. This development is a milestone in the promotion of NP given that the choice of standard orthography has been one of the major contending issues for the language. Other challenging issues include the status of NP (i.e. whether it is a pidgin, a creole, or still in the process of creolising); its structure (i.e. whether it enjoys an independent structure from English); and the lack of official recognition for it by language policy makers in Nigeria.

The publication of *Current Trends in Nigerian Pidgin English: A Sociolinguistic Perspective* is, therefore, timely because it provides authoritative answers to many of the seemingly intractable issues listed above. The highly reputable editors, Akinmade Timothy Akande and Oladipo Salami, are leading researchers of NP in particular, and varieties of English, in general. The volume provides readers with current updates on NP research and convincing insights on its functional domains, morphology and syntax. It consists of twelve well researched papers that offer new perspectives and fresh data on the various theoretical and applied issues addressed.

The contributors to this volume consist of some of the best known names in Pidgin and Creole linguistics. Expectedly, they have put in a splendid effort to ensure that their research is current, painstaking and scientific. *Current Trends in Nigerian Pidgin English: A Sociolinguistic Perspective* is an invaluable companion for students and researchers of Pidgin and Creole linguistics.

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