

**Title of Article:** Media Language and the Pragmatics of Local Idioms in Nigeria:  
Implications for Language Teaching.

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**Abstract:** The paper examines the extent to which the English Language conforms to contextual dynamics of media communication in Nigeria and the implication of this to language teaching. It argues that English in Nigeria mediates socio-cultural thoughts and assumes a local colour that is peculiarly Nigerian. In the interpretation of local idioms using some general principles of discourse pragmatics, this paper views idiom as a discourse type that represents the historical and cultural heritage of a people and shows the extent to which they mediate social communication in media discourse. The Nigerian press, particularly Newswatch, Tell and The News magazines find idioms a significant mode of disseminating the news and for making cultural and psychological appeals to the reader. While some local idioms convey contextual information, some others are a mere rendition in English of traditional thoughts as they function in their natural domain of discourse. Thus, the Nigerian mass media illustrate some vital roles of English in Nigeria and the fact that English language teaching should integrate some socio-cultural patterns of behaviour that seek to preserve our socio-cultural identity.

