

Environmental Humanities: Implications for Language, Migration and Global Studies¹

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Abstract

The paper examines the nexus among and/or between environmental humanities, language, migration and global studies as occasioned by the emergence and emphasis on interdisciplinary and integrative research in the humanities. The methods for information gathering for the study were mainly library research and observation. The aim is to generate interest in the emerging areas of research in the humanities and to provoke further arguments and investigations in the area(s). This is with a view to improving the reader's perception on the contributions of arts and humanities to scientific knowledge and their practical relevance for innovative solutions to societal problems hitherto misunderstood and neglected. It argues that, before now, research in the humanities was characterized as individual and discipline-oriented but sometimes isolated, reproductive, and conservative. However, collaboration as encouraged in multidisciplinary research nowadays has brought less isolation for researchers in the humanities and as such, the practical relevance of their contribution to knowledge and innovative solutions to problem solving in the society is becoming more obvious with the integrative approach to research in the new humanities. The paper concludes that it is only interdisciplinary research as encouraged in the new humanities that can conveniently bring together in a single research endeavour, issues relating to language, migration and global studies, providing innovative solutions for societal transformation.

Keywords: *Multidisciplinary Research, Environmental Humanities, Language, Migration, Global Studies*

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Introduction

With the emergence and emphasis on multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and/or integrative research in the humanities and other broad areas of academic endeavours, New Humanities (including environmental humanities) appear to be a reasonably fascinating area and approach to research in modern times. Before now, research in the humanities was characterized as individual (lone scholar and sole authorship), discipline-oriented, and ground-breaking but sometimes isolated, reproductive, and conservative. However, collaboration as encouraged in multidisciplinary research nowadays has brought less isolation for researchers even those in the humanities.

Why multidisciplinary research? Current national and international challenges in climate change, conflict, migration, resource wars affecting the energy sector, water resources, food security, health, and urbanisation; involving the interactions amongst animals, humans, and the environment, would require multi-task, multi-skill, multi-talent approach(es) which is considered daunting for a single disciplinary approach to tackle and overcome. Hence, the necessity for multidisciplinary and cross-institutional research. In other words, many of today's global scientific challenges require the joint involvement of researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, made possible and driven by ICT, globalisation, accessibility to high quality database/sets, and so on to succeed in providing innovative solutions to the problems.

Collaborative research provides access to expertise across disciplines; sharing of knowledge, skills, techniques, tasks, and pooling specialised teams to complement each other; leading to cross-fertilization of ideas for creativity and innovations. It is only this kind of orientation in research (interdisciplinary research in new humanities) that can conveniently bring together in a single research endeavour, issues relating to language, migration and global studies.

In what follows, therefore, given the subject matter and focus of the current paper, the remaining parts shall concentrate on the following for cohesion, orderliness and a better grasp of the discourse structure of the paper: 2. Conceptual Explications, 3. Causes and Effects of Migration, 4. Language

and Migration/Migration Studies, 5. Language Matters in Global Studies, 6. Migration and Global Studies, the Interface, 7. Conclusion and Recommendation.

Conceptual Explications

As it is always the case, no matter how carefully worded the definition for each of the concepts below may appear, it may not have captured exhaustively all that there is in each of the words or concepts. Hence, what is intended in this section is to, as much as possible, attempt to operationalise the concept as understood and used in the current paper. Therefore, the concepts to be so treated are: *humanities, environmental humanities vs. new humanities, language, migration (studies) and global studies*.

Humanities (c.f.^{2,3})

Humanities as a concept was first identified in the writings of Cicero. The word ‘humanity’ came into English from the Latin *humanitas*. The writer, Cicero then used it to describe good people, that is, “civilized” human beings. In the opinion of Behling⁴, it entered English usage in the 14th century. The word, humanity in its singular form refers to being “humane” and is synonymous with the civilized and well-educated or cultured people. Humane people, it could be argued, are people who recognize and practice “hospitality” and “justice” even though precise definitions might vary in different times and places. But humanity used in the plural form as ‘humanities’ or ‘the humanities’, refers to a field of study within university settings, a group of subjects that scholars study, discuss and debate such as history, music, art, language, philosophy, religion, literature, and so on. The humanities include but is not limited to the study of language (both modern and classical), linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy,

² Omachonu, G.S. 2020. The humanities: A neglected path to sustainable national development in Nigeria. In H. Adeniyi, G. Ibileye & N. Abdul-Malik (eds.). *Issues in minority languages and language development studies in Nigeria: A Festschrift in Honour of Andrew Haruna*, 87—95.

³ Omachonu, G. S. 2022. Education, research and digital humanities in a digital age. A Lead Paper Presented at the Faculty of Arts 5th Annual International Conference 2022 on the Theme: Humanities and Education in a Digital Age. Organised by the Faculty of Arts, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State, Thursday, 2nd June, 2022, TETFUND Auditorium.

⁴ Behling, D. 2012. On studying the humanities: What does it mean to be human? www.huffpost.com/entry/humanities-majors_b_1569600, accessed 05/08/2012.

archeology, comparative religion, ethics, history, criticism and theory of the arts. It includes also those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods, and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life⁵.

One may ask, what is the difference between arts and humanities? The arts refer specifically to disciplines such as *theatre, dance, music, and visual art* forms (creative art forms whose products are to be appreciated by sight, for instance, painting, drawing, sculpture and film making, etc.) whereas the humanities include *history, philosophy, language, linguistics, literature and folklore*. In other words, the arts are the doing part whereas ‘the humanities’ are the talking about it aspect. Put differently, ‘the arts’ and ‘the humanities’ support each other; they walk the fence line together and intermingle naturally. In the opinion of Walter Sava, ‘the arts’ illustrate the humanities, while the humanities translate and interpret the illustration⁶. By examining the two critically and considering the differing methods each employs as enunciated above, we can better appreciate what each brings to the human experience. In other words, ‘the arts’ and ‘the humanities’ engage us in somewhat meaningful ways, and both are essential to our existence. Sometimes, it appears the humanities entails the arts.

Environmental Humanities vs. New Humanities (c.f.⁷)

Even as the traditional major disciplines in the humanities are indeed shrinking, the past two decades has witnessed the rise of a new kind of humanities characterized by a wave of hybrid fields such as:

Digital humanities: This studies the intersection of computing or digital technologies and the disciplines of the humanities. It includes the systematic use of digital resources in the humanities, as well as the analysis of their application.

⁵ *The U. S. Congressional Act that created the National Endowment for the Humanities as reported in National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act, 1965:1.*

⁶ cited in Wisconsin Humanities Council, 2015.

⁷ Omachonu, G. S. 2022. Education, research and digital humanities in a digital age. A Lead Paper Presented at the Faculty of Arts 5th Annual International Conference on the Theme: Humanities and Education in a Digital Age. Organised by the Faculty of Arts, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State, Thursday, 2nd June, 2022, TETFUND Auditorium.

Medical humanities: It focuses on interdisciplinary field of medicine which includes the humanities (philosophy, ethics, history, comparative literature, and religion), social sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, health geography) and the arts (literature, visual arts) and their application to medical education/practice.

Energy humanities: This refers to new ways of thinking about energy and culture; responding to growing concerns about climate change and fossil fuels through arts/humanities, how energy shapes society and vice-versa. This when critically examined, is somewhat part of the environmental humanities.

Global humanities: This deals with interactions, insights from humanities and social sciences in understating, researching, and tackling global issues.

Urban humanities: It is an emerging field at the intersection of the humanities, urban planning, urban studies and design; understanding cities in a global context, interpreting their histories, engaging with them in the present, and speculating about their future.

Food humanities: Humanities in food studies; gender, (eco)feminism, food politics and culture, food knowledge and consumer identities, food, and literary texts, etc.

Legal humanities: The relationship between law and good life. What can wisdom of the past and present offer to us for addressing the legal challenges of today, both at a personal and systemic level? How might we begin to conceive, as a community, what it would mean to be a good lawyer?

Public humanities: this deals with engaging diverse publics in reflecting on heritage, traditions, and history, and the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of civic and cultural life.

These fields (the new humanities) are not just adding new intellectual perspectives; a substantial institutional infrastructure has emerged to support them, yielding new programmes, journals, book series, conferences,

courses, degrees, and most importantly, jobs. They are not transient or transitory, they have come to stay.

Environmental humanities: This is a rapidly growing field focused on the study of human imagination, perception, behaviours and the relationship of humans to their surrounding environments—both social and natural. It began in the early 1990s when literary, cultural, religious, and ethnic and women’s studies scholars, philosophers and historians started organizing, at first, separately in their own disciplines, but increasingly, in collaborative studies to address the complexity of the link between social and environmental problems on both local and global scales collectively by all the disciplines. The earlier works focused on notions of wilderness and conservation, but quickly turned in the direction of more complex understandings of human-non-human relationship within complex biogeochemical and social systems^{8,9,10}.

By 2000, the efforts became rapidly internationalized, integrating into a new interdisciplinary field called the “eco-humanities” by the literary critic and ethnographer, Deborah Bird Rose, historian Libby Robin, and feminist Val Plumwood who formed a study group in Australia to begin piloting the new field. Later, the term, “environmental humanities”, became the recognised name of the new methodological approaches that were increasingly transdisciplinary and collaborative, bringing humanists together with social scientists and scientists. Working together, these collaborations were formed to seek solutions to the complex social and environmental challenges, to improve human wellbeing and promote justice, while protecting earth’s life support systems¹¹.

⁸ Hannon, B., Costanza, R. and Ulanowicz, R. 1991 “A general accounting framework for ecological systems: A functional taxonomy for connectivist ecology”, *Theoretical population biology*, Vol. 40, 78-104.

⁹ Odum, H.T. 1994. *Ecological and general systems: An introduction to systems ecology*, Colorado University Press, Boulder, Colorado.

¹⁰ Marshall, A. 2002. *The unity of nature: Wholeness and disintegration in ecology and science*. London: Imperial College Press.

¹¹ Marshall, A. 2002. *The unity of nature: Wholeness and disintegration in ecology and science*. London: Imperial College Press.

Language

What is language? I am aware that language has been defined severally by various language experts and that no matter how carefully worded a definition may appear, it may not have captured everything that there is in language study. However rather than to go too abstract and broad, I would want to concentrate on the concept of language that is human specie-specific and to define it as a system of human expression by means of words. It is a set of rules which allows a speaker or a listener to associate meaning with a sequence of sounds.

The human species-specific concept of language can be analysed or interpreted at two levels, namely, as a system of rules or as a form of behaviour. Consider, for instance, the statements below:

- i. Igala is a simple language for foreigners to learn.
- ii. The language those guys were using at the party last night was quite scary and unfriendly.

Notice that in (i), language is focused on or seen as a system of rules whereas in (ii), language is portrayed as a form of behaviour, value judgment of a certain use of the language system.

Studying language as a system of rules concentrates on the structural properties of language without the social context. The concern on language here is generative, that is, the grammar and how the finite resources of language are channeled into infinite production/usage, bordering on both organic and dynamic creativity in the human language.

Language as a form of behaviour on the other hand deals with varieties in language use according to situations and intentions; speech or language as a part of the social process; approaching what linguists, Chomsky¹² in particular, and other language experts may call “the human essence”; the distinctive qualities of the mind that are, so far as we know, unique to man¹³.

Migration (Studies)

¹²Chomsky, N. 1988. *Language and the problem of knowledge: Managua lectures*. MIT Press.

¹³ Omachonu, G. S. 2017. Language documentation and description: A programmatic response to language death and endangerment in Nigeria. 15th Inaugural Lecture, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, 15th November, 2017.

Migration, especially human migration, is the movement of people from one place to another in the world. The movements have given rise to the following types of human migration:

- Internal migration: moving within a state, country, or continent;
- External migration: moving to a different state, country, or continent;
- Emigration: leaving one country to move to another;
- Immigration: moving into a new country;
- Return migration: moving back to where you came from;
- Seasonal migration: moving with each season or in response to labour or climate conditions.

Migration studies has developed with significantly different trajectories in different academic cultures and traditions. It does not exist as a self-contained discipline but finds its heritage in a variety of places. Developments in the sociology of migration, the study of the history of human migration, theories and policies concerning labour migration, and postcolonial studies, all fed into the growth of Migration Studies. The development of Migration Studies is also bound up with the growth in interdisciplinary pursuits, trending in the past 30 years. And as it were, the subject matter, object of study and scope as well as key issues or topics in Migration Studies should include but not limited to the following:

- Migration histories, literature and the arts, urbanism, economics, demography, public attitudes, critical border studies, immigration law, migrant il/legality and "cimmigration";
- Displacement: Forced migration, refugee studies, internal displacement, climate change and environmental factors;
- Gender and sexuality: Gender, queer migration, and so on;
- Humanitarianism, epidemiology, assimilation, etc.

Global Studies

Global Studies (GS) or **Global Affairs (GA)** is an interdisciplinary study of global macro-processes focusing on subjects such as global politics, economics, and law, as well as ecology, geography, culture, anthropology and ethnography. It distinguishes itself from the related discipline of international relations by its comparatively

lesser focus on the nation state as a fundamental analytical unit, instead of focusing on the broader issues relating to cultural and economic globalisation, global power structures, as well of the effect of humans on the global environment. Prominent topics include migration, climate change, global governance and globalisation.

Global Studies as an interdisciplinary programme provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the world and the major contemporary issues confronting humanity. Students and researchers in Global Studies obtain a deep understanding of global issues, processes, and systems and the various implications of globalization.

Causes and Effects of Migration in Africa/Nigeria

Africa is often seen as a continent of mass migration and displacement caused by poverty, violent conflict, and environmental stress. Specifically, the causes of migration can be categorized into push and pull factors. The push factors are the factors that cause people to migrate from the source to host community whereas pull factors are the factors that attract the immigrants to the host community. They are as outlined below:

Push Factors: Include war, famine, natural disasters including climatic disaster, poverty, only a few jobs available, and so on.

Pull Factors: These include better health care, availability of job opportunities, education facilities, safety, money, food, peace, city life, and so on.

The figure below gives a vivid pictorial view of the taxonomy of the push and pull factors for migration.



Figure 1: Push and Pull Factors for Migration¹⁴

What then are the consequences of migration? Just like the causes enunciated above, the consequences of migration divide also into two; the negative and the positive consequences as we proceed to relate. But as one would observe, the negative far outweighs the positive consequences as they may affect either the source or host communities.

The Positive: Mainly, immigrants help grow the economy of the host community by filling the labour needs, purchasing goods and paying taxes. When more people work, productivity increases and this is to the advantage of the host locations.

The Negative: These are as outlined below:

- High school drop-out, loss of labour and averagely literate groups migrating from rural communities;
- Increased pressure on infrastructural facilities such as housing, water supply, etc.;
- Poverty and the growth of urban slums due to increasing population;

¹⁴ www.jkgeography.com

- The family structure is gradually weakening as a result of migration; the family security, which children enjoyed by virtue of the presence of both parents, is being lost;
- Young men and women are exposed to societal vagaries from which they may not recover in adulthood due to dislocation in the family structure as a result of migration;
- In addition, there are a number of obstacles that the migrant may need to confront and overcome. These include but not limited to:
 - i. Unemployment in the new country or location due to the growing population;
 - ii. Racism and cultural differences;
 - iii. Language barriers and the attendant challenges;
 - iv. Lack of opportunities due to certain levels of discrimination.

Language and Migration

Language matters always matter in every sphere of life because it gives identity to the speakers and carries with it the complex whole known as culture - all aspects of human life so far as they are determined or conditioned by one's membership of a society. When people move, normally, they don't leave their languages behind because those are their natural means of identification (identity) and communication, especially their first language (L1). Migration to different parts of the globe, Africa and Nigeria has several implications (negative and positive) on language as well as certain linguistic implications difficult to capture in a single breath force or a short piece such as this. Therefore, in what follows, we shall enumerate a few of the language matters relevant to migration in the respective directions. Generally, issues on language and migration revolves around five themes as follows^{15,16}:

- Languages in contact;
- Identities and ideologies;
- Linguistic diversity and social justice;
- Education in linguistically diverse societies;
- Language policy and language-based immigration policy requirements.

¹⁵Mallows, D. ed. 2014. *Language issues in migration and integration: perspectives from teachers and learners*. British Council, London.

¹⁶Adserà, A, and Pytliková, M. 2015. "The role of languages in shaping international migration", *Economic journal*, 125(586): F49–F81.

Languages in Contact:

Migration from one place to another has a far-reaching effect and impact on the language people speak, leading to a number of linguistic implications such as language borrowing, language shift, creation of a new language and even language endangerment. In other words, migration could engender the varieties of languages spoken in the host communities, including the various forms of the language spoken in the affected locations across the levels of the grammar of the languages. It could also lead to diagglossic use of the languages spoken in the affected locations. Similarly, certain languages got endangered due to such movements, both at the source communities from where people migrated and the host locations as well, depending on the magnitude of the movements.

Alio¹⁷, for instance, investigates language attitude among the Hadjaraye migrants of the Guéra region in the two neighbouring regions of Chari-Baguirmi and Salamat in Chad. The results show that, while social integration is successful due to the common lingua franca the host and migrant communities share, the future of the mother tongues of the immigrants is at stake as they will be spoken only at home; in a reduced circle. As he asserted, even though their mother tongues are spoken at an initial stage of their sojourn, in the end, they will be gradually abandoned, not in favour of the host languages, but in favour of the Chadian Arabic, which is also the lingua franca in Chad consequent on the language attitude of the migrant communities. In addition, he reported instances of linguistic borrowing, bilingualism, code mixing, code switching resulting from the language contacts. The study concludes that the immigrants would not likely pass on their languages to the next generations because of the contacts and the resultant linguistic influences, thereby losing their language or mother tongues, which in turn will inevitably and ultimately lead to the loss of the identity of the migrants.

The negative linguistic effect, such as reported above notwithstanding, migration rates increase with linguistic proximity. Softer linguistic requirements for naturalization and larger linguistic communities at the destination encourage more migrants to move to the host community.

¹⁷Alio, K. 2008. Conflict, mobility and language: The case of migrant Hadjaraye of Guéra to neighboring regions of Chari-Baguirmi and Salamat (Chad), ASC Working Paper 82 / 2008
2 African Studies Centre.

However, linguistic proximity matters less when local linguistic networks are larger. By linguistic proximity, we mean languages or speech varieties which are close or related genealogically, typologically or structurally by certain linguistic classification or mutual intelligibility.

Adserà and Pytliková¹⁸ as well as earlier studies such as Bleakley and Chin¹⁹ and Dustmann and Fabbri²⁰ have argued that the extent to which migrants select a host country may be based on employment prospects, the safety and openness of the society. But in addition to these is the evidence of an additional influence – the degree of similarity between migrants’ mother tongues and the language spoken in destination countries. As Adserà and Pytliková²¹ explain further:

As migration flows to developed countries have increased since the mid-1980s, so has the diversity of origins of new migrants. With this, it is likely that linguistic and cultural differences play an increasing role in migration decisions. Differences in language may create barriers that prevent the full realisation of the potential economic gains from international mobility as people choose to move to more culturally similar countries.

As a result, an extensive extant literature attests that both fluency in the destination language and the ability to learn it as quickly as possible are key to a successful transfer of existing human capital to the host communities’ labour markets.

Identities and ideologies

As averred earlier above, language is unmistakably the true identity of the speakers, and it carries with it the culture of the speech community.

¹⁸ Adserà, A, and Pytliková, M. 2015. “The role of languages in shaping international migration”, *Economic journal*, 125(586): F49–F81.

¹⁹ Bleakley, H, and Chin, A. 2004. “Language skills and earnings: Evidence from childhood immigrants”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 84(2): 481–496.

²⁰ Dustmann, C, and Fabbri, F. 2003. “Language proficiency and labour market performance of immigrants in the UK”, *Economic journal*, 113(489): 695–717.

²¹ Adserà, A, and Pytliková, M. 2015:49. “The role of languages in shaping international migration”, *Economic journal*, 125(586): F49–F81.

Language and culture are so intricately interwoven that one can hardly talk of one without the other. Culture, especially in its anthropological, sense refers to all aspects of human life as far as they are determined or conditioned by one's membership of a society. Language is both a carrier and an aspect of a people's culture, with the identity and ideologies that underscore the uniqueness of the community. This, in turn, brings to the fore the sociolinguistic and socio-cultural dimensions to the relationship between language and migration. For instance, individuals who migrate, may experience multiple stresses that can impact their mental well-being, including the loss of cultural norms, religious customs, and social support systems, and the necessity for adjustment to a new culture and changes in identity and concept of self of the individuals becomes crucial in their new locations.

It is in line with the above that Fina and King²² investigate how the Latin American women who migrate to the US frame their language experiences through narratives told in sociolinguistic interviews. The narratives reflect and shape social realities and relationships; how individuals position themselves relative to language obstacles and ideologies, thus providing insights into processes that are central to the migration experiences of millions of individuals. The women selected for the study related two types of stories, namely: language conflict narratives, in which language was presented as part of a broader ethnic or social conflict, and language difficulty narratives, which focused on individual, personal problems with language experienced by the protagonists. The result of the analysis, according to Fina and King²³, "shows how interviewers' questions, and the interviewees' language conflict narratives in particular confirm, reproduce, but also contest central language ideologies and dominant discourses about migration in the US". This may not be substantially different from what obtains in Africa and Nigeria on the point at issue.

²² Fina, A.D. and King, K.A. 2011. Language problem or conflict? Narratives of immigrant women's experiences in the US. *Discourse studies*, vol. 13, no. 2, 163-188.

²³ Fina, A.D. and King, K.A. 2011:163. Language problem or conflict? Narratives of immigrant women's experiences in the US. *Discourse studies*, vol. 13, no. 2, 163-188.

Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice

With the increase in, especially the push factors for migration, the flows, particularly to the developed countries, have increased since the mid-1980s till the present and so has the diversity of the origins of the new migrants. With this, it is most likely that linguistic and cultural differences would play an increasing role in the migration decisions, studies and discourses. With the growing number of new migrants with diversity of origins and languages, linguistic dimensions to economic inequality, cultural domination, exclusion, and unequal socio-political participations would emerge in the host communities and locations. Therefore, it becomes imperative to seek to understand and address the linguistic disadvantages and social justice or injustice, especially, the ways in which linguistic diversity mediates social justice or injustice in communities undergoing rapid changes due to traffic in migration and economic globalization. This should be a concern to scholars in language and migration studies.

Education in Linguistically Diverse Societies

The concern on education here comes in two broad ways; the learning of the language of the host community for the purposes of proper integration and then, general education in the formal schools in the host locations for what such schools are known for. As migrants are faced **with social and economic demands that are far easier to address if they understand the host country's language, both spoken and written**, they have to realise, recognise and worry about **the place of language and language learning in their new lives, and take steps to brace up and tackle the challenges. This is so because they more often than not have to navigate the welfare system in the host country to access health care and other social services. And for their children, they have to find out about the education system and enroll them in the local schools as a matter of high priority. In the process, they will also need to talk to their children's teachers about their progress, including other practical and functional needs. The children, in turn, would also have to share in the language problem of how to cope with lessons in the language(s) of the host locations. The teachers are not spared or left out as they have to battle with teaching linguistically diverse or mixed classes, trying to ensure every pupil or student is carried along for effective delivery.**

Language Policy and Language-Based Immigration Policy Requirements

The complexities involved in discussing and handling language matters in migration have of necessity brought about the issue of policy to ensure orderliness and standard in handling migration issues intentionally and deliberately, backed up by the laws of the land. As it were, language policy and language-based immigration policy come to play because of the relevance of linguistic proximity in determining the direction and strength of migration flows is mediated by immigration policies that affect the selection of immigrants across host destinations. Even though in Africa the issue of language policy of any kind is hard to come by, in Australia, Canada and New Zealand²⁴, for example, immigration policies emphasise candidates' skills in their application processes for permanent resident visas, namely, English language proficiency, educational attainment and age at migration. This is with a view to constraining or restricting who should move to where, a control mechanism to bring order and legal standard to such movements.

Language Matters in Global Studies

Obviously, Global Studies is a multidisciplinary course of study that encourages global awareness and intercultural understanding through the acquisition of at least one modern language other than English, namely, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. Supposedly, the students study global and international politics, economics, business, media, history, society, and culture so that they can become productive contributors to and find employment in a rapidly growing and changing world.

What is probably the best language to learn in global studies? For most people involved in Global Studies, English remains the first choice, and for good reasons; it is the language of diplomacy, business and popular culture, currently spoken by an estimated 1.5 billion speakers (and with another billion in class)²⁵, English really is the “world's language” and the language of the global village. With English, one can communicate with people from

²⁴ Dustmann, C, and Fabbri, F. 2003. “Language proficiency and labour market performance of immigrants in the UK”, *Economic journal*, 113(489): 695–717.

²⁵ Ammon, U. 2010:10. "World Languages: Trends and Futures". In C. Nikolas (ed.). *The Handbook of Language and Globalization*, Wiley-Blackwell, 10-17.

various parts of the world. The knowledge of the English language and the ability or skills to speak and write it well will empower any global citizen to live and interact effectively with others in the globalized 21st century²⁶.

Migration and Global Studies, the Interface

What is the relationship between migration and globalization or Global Studies? Increased migration is one of the most visible and significant aspects of globalization with growing numbers of people moving within countries and across borders, looking for better employment opportunities and better lifestyles. Although migration is usually seen as problematic, it contributes to sustainable development as well as linguistic and cultural diversity. As mentioned earlier, prominent topics in Global Studies include migration, climate change, global governance, and globalization, and by this, migration can be said to be an aspect of Global Studies. Similarly, even language matters are involved in Global Studies. Apart from language being the phenomenon that makes others possible, there is hardly anything done or achieved without language being involved, including migration and global studies; there is always that synergy as the discussions in the preceding sections and sub-sections have attested to.

Conclusion and Recommendation

New humanities, environmental humanities, language, migration and global studies, none is completely independent of the others. It would have been unthinkable decades ago, to say that there is a strong link between the areas of research concerns listed above were it not for the emphasis on multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and integrative research in the humanities and other broad areas of academic endeavours today. And with the emphasis on multidisciplinary approach to research, walls of partition among disciplines and scholars are fast collapsing to give way to a community of researchers without boundaries.

Therefore, what may be urgently needed of every researcher worth the tag in the 21st century is to realize and quickly cultivate adaptable skills for multidisciplinary research orientation in his and her hitherto chosen research area, believing that research is a community effort and the more

²⁶ Omachonu, G.S. & Okorji, R.I. 2006. African languages and the challenges of globalization. *Awka journal of linguistics and languages (AJLL)*, Vol.2.37-48.

we are together, the merrier. As I have always argued; though celebrations may vary from one place to another, true politeness is everywhere the same. This is true of research and the earlier every researcher worth the name embraces the doctrine of multidisciplinary and integrative research, the better for us in the research industry, especially in the globalized 21st century.

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