Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **9093/42**

Paper 4 Language Topics **February/March 2022**

2 hours 15 minutes

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You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: English in the world

Question 1

Read the following text, which is an extract from a blog written by the publishers of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. It was written to explain why 29 Nigerian English words and phrases were added to the dictionary in 2020.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the changing use of English in the world. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

Release notes: Nigerian English

My English-speaking is rooted in a Nigerian experience and not in a British or American or Australian one. I have taken ownership of English.

This is how acclaimed Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie describes her relationship with English, the language which she uses in her writing, and which millions of her fellow Nigerians use in their daily communication. By taking ownership of English and using it as their own medium of expression, Nigerians have made, and are continuing to make, a unique and distinctive contribution to English as a global language. We highlight their contributions in this month's update of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, as a number of Nigerian English words make it into the dictionary for the first time.

The majority of these new additions are either borrowings from Nigerian languages, or unique Nigerian coinages that have only begun to be used in English in the second half of the twentieth century, mostly in the 1970s and 1980s.

One particularly interesting set of such loanwords and coinages has to do with Nigerian street food. The word **buka**, borrowed from Hausa and Yoruba and first attested[1] in 1972, refers to a roadside restaurant or street stall that sells local fare at low prices. Another term for such eating places first evidenced in 1980 is **bukateria**, which adds to *buka* the *-teria* ending from the word *cafeteria*. An even more creative synonym is **mama put**, from 1979, which comes from the way that customers usually order food in a buka: they say 'Mama, put …' to the woman running the stall, and indicate the dish they want. The word later became a generic name for the female food vendors themselves – Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka notably includes a Mama Put character in one of his works.

The informal transport systems that emerged in Nigeria's huge, densely populated cities have also necessitated lexical invention. **Danfo**, a borrowing from Yoruba whose earliest use in written English is dated 1973, denotes those yellow minibuses whizzing paying passengers through the busy streets of Lagos, the country's largest city. **Okada**, on the other hand, is first attested[1] twenty years later, and is the term for a motorcycle that passengers can use as a taxi service. It is a reference to Okada Air, an airline that operated in Nigeria from 1983 to 1997, and its reputation as a fast yet potentially dangerous form of transport, just like the motorcycle taxi.

The oldest of our new additions that are originally from Nigeria is **next tomorrow**, which is the Nigerian way of saying 'the day after tomorrow'. It was first used in written English as a noun in 1953, and as an adverb in 1964. The youngest of the words in this batch is **Kannywood**, first used in 2002, which is the name for the Hausa-language film industry based in the city of Kano. It is a play on *Hollywood*, following the model of *Nollywood*, the more general term for the Nigerian film industry that was added to the *OED* in 2018.

[1] *attested*: established

Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an extract from an article published on *The Conversation* website in 2019.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect how individuals think. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

The power of language: we translate our thoughts into words, but words also affect the way we think

Have you ever worried in your student years or later in life that time may be starting to run out to achieve your goals? If so, would it be easier conveying this feeling to others if there was a word meaning just that? In German, there is. That feeling of panic associated with one's opportunities appearing to run out is called *Torschlusspanik*.

German has a rich collection of such terms, made up of often two, three or more words connected to form a superword or compound word. Compound words are particularly powerful because they are (much) more than the sum of their parts. *Torschlusspanik*, for instance, is literally made of 'gate' – 'closing' – 'panic'.

If you get to the train station a little late and see your train's doors still open, you may have experienced a concrete form of *Torschlusspanik*, prompted by the characteristic beeps as the train doors are about to close. But this compound word of German is associated with more than the literal meaning. It evokes something more abstract, referring to the feeling that life is progressively shutting the door of opportunities as time goes by.

English too has many compound words. Some combine rather concrete words like 'seahorse' and 'butterfly'. Others are more abstract, such as 'backwards' or 'whatsoever'. And of course in English too, compounds are superwords, as in German or French, since their meaning is often distinct from the meaning of their parts. A seahorse is not a horse; a butterfly is not a fly.

One remarkable feature of compound words is that they don't translate well at all from one language to another, at least when it comes to translating their constituent parts literally. Who would have thought that a 'carry-sheets' is a wallet – *porte-feuille* –, or that a 'support-throat' is a bra – *soutien-gorge* – in French?

This begs the question of what happens when words don't readily translate from one language to another. For instance, what happens when a native speaker of German tries to convey in English that they just had a spurt of *Torschlusspanik*? Naturally, they will resort to paraphrasing, that is, they will make up a narrative with examples to make their interlocutor understand what they are trying to say.

But then, this begs another, bigger question: Do people who have words that simply do not translate in another language have access to different concepts? Take the case of *hiraeth* for instance, a beautiful word of Welsh famous for being essentially untranslatable. *Hiraeth* is meant to convey the feeling associated with the bittersweet memory of missing something or someone, while being grateful of their existence.

Hiraeth is not nostalgia, it is not anguish, or frustration, or melancholy, or regret. And no, it is not homesickness, as Google Translate may lead you to believe, since *hiraeth* also conveys the feeling one experiences when they ask someone to marry them and they are turned down, hardly a case of homesickness.

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