LANGUAGE CONTACT AND LANGUAGE CHANGE:
AN EXAMPLE OF NIGERIAN PIDGIN

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Abstract
Language contact occurs when speakers of two or more languages even varieties interact and influence each other. When speakers of different languages have close conversation, it is certain for their languages to influence each other. Language Contact is normally one of the major factors of Language Change. The idea of change in language has different attitude over the years. Some scholars argued that language change has adverse effect on the standardization of language, they are of the view that change alters the originality of the language. The older generation, for instance, see change in language especially in younger generation as unacceptable and thereby termed the speakers destroyers of the beauty and efficacy of language. However, some scholars have advocated for language change as it has positive effects, it makes language dynamic and stands the taste of time as it tends to flow with the trends of time. The most popular case in respect of language contact is the emergence of Pidgin. Nigerian Pidgin has a lot of variation and changes over time. This paper, therefore, examines the concept of Language Contact, Language Change and the functional advantages of changes that come from contact with other languages such as English, Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, Portuguese and Warri slang. The study adopted the Principle of Variation by Labov. Data for this study comprise naturally occurring casual speeches of speakers of Nigerian Pidgin. Data were purposively chosen from discourses of speakers in public bus, some students' conversations within and outside the university campus. This research discovers that Nigerian Pidgin emerged as a result of contact situation and have undergone some changes over the years.
Keywords: Language contact, language Change, Nigerian Pidgin, variation

Introduction
Human language has always been associated with life and human existence. Languages are used for interaction within the society that uses it. It is seen as one of the basic components of people's culture that flourishes alongside with the people that speak the language. Language is dynamic and this is seen in various social functions of language; as far as people develop and expand in their socio-cultural environment, language toils alongside with them.

Therefore, it is no longer a new thing that languages come in contact as users continue to have contact with events like trade, invasions, and people of other languages consciously or unconsciously and language experience a certain level of influence, variation; languages change over time. The possibility of a linguistic change according to Holmes, exists as soon as a new form develops and begins to be used alongside an existing form (1998). Although that no language is inferior or superior to another but when persons that speak different languages are in contact, it is certain that they must find a common ground for communication and when this happens it appears that some languages in contact with another outweigh others in vitality and function. They become widely used than others and the linguistic outcome is a change which could be the acquisition of new linguistic items or loss of existing ones. Pronunciations change, new words borrowed, the meaning of old words drift and morphology develops or decays.

The Nigerian Pidgin English is a contact language which emerged as a result of the need to fill some communication gaps in places where there is no common language between the Europeans and Nigerians. Nigerian Pidgin (henceforth NP) is produced from combination of the Nigerian indigenous languages, some borrowed languages and the English language. Faraclas (2004), notes that, NP is spoken today by millions of people especially the younger generation representing various linguistic areas of the Nigerian society. Thus the wide usage of NP among millions of Nigerians may have caused

NP to undergo various degrees of change. Some parts of the country has been pidginized and the Pidgin has been domesticated to the emergence of Creole in the area.

This paper, therefore, hinges on this fact to examine Language Contact, Language Change, the possible changes NP has undergone over the years to ascertain whether these changes involve additional linguistic items, modification of existing ones or even both using the theory of variation (variable rule) by Labov . What really gets transferred or borrowed when languages come in contact?   What are the reasons for this contact and what are the prominent changes in modern NP and their functional advantages?

Conceptual Framework
Language contact is one of the major factors in Language change. When language comes in contact with other languages and other dialectal varieties of one language, there is likely to be a source of alternative pronunciation, grammatical structures and vocabulary but when this language contact stays for a long period of time, it leads to bilingualism or multi-lingualism.

Matras (2009), notes that Language contact can show itself in various domains like Language acquisition, language processing and production, conversation and discourse, social functions of language policy, typology, language change and more. In addition, Heine and Kuteva (2005), opine that language contact can and frequently does trigger or influence the development of grammar, for instance, in grammatical replication which may accelerate grammatical change.

However, language contact is not a homogenous phenomenon because language contact may occur between languages which are related or unrelated genetically whose speakers may have similar or huge difference in social structures. It can also occur along borders or as a result of migration. Thou English Language by far still predominates the internet but many languages in internet have come in contact, influencing one another. For languages to come in contact, there must be placing side by side of two speakers of different languages, or two texts in different languages thus, Law (2014), confirms that language contact is really only acknowledged when one code becomes more similar to another code as a result of the interaction.

Language contact may give birth to new language, combining elements of the two or more languages in contact as well as adding elements that do not originate in either language. In the case of Pidgin language, a totally new language is given birth to out of language contact situation.

Language Change
It is normal for language to change. Every language is constantly turning into something different and when we hear new word or a new pronunciation or use of an old word, we may be catching the early stages of a change. (Butcher, 2005). Individual idiosyncrasies and creativity in language could create a form of variation, possible of leading to change. However, Holmes in her opinion supports the speakers' innovation in speech as a base to explain more the existence on change in language, thus
Speakers innovate, sometimes spontaneously, but more often by imitating speakers from other communities; if their innovations are adopted by others and diffuse through their local community and beyond into other communities, then linguistic change is the result (1992). Also, Ludke, opines that language change is due to the sum of unconscious actions by speakers converging in the collective effort implied in communication, which is a goal-oriented activity (1986). The speakers' innovations according to Ludke do not aim at changing their language but rather aims at bringing about effective interaction. Bamgbose maintains that innovation is to be seen as an acceptable variant (1992).

So, language change is not spontaneous, it naturally occurs over time. According to Butcher, it is natural because a language system is culturally transmitted (2005). When speakers continue to use certain speech patterns, variation will surface, this variation could begin from speaker to speaker and span through entire community. Based on this point, it is obvious that all languages change in one way or the other. Holmes points out that if the new form spreads, the change is in progress but if it eventually displaces the old form, the change has become a 'fait accomplish'. (1992).

Change also can occur in a language due to admiration. For instance, if a group or sect adopts a particular kind of word or expression that perhaps reflects their status or association, other group or persons may admire it and eventually begin to use it, from there, it starts to spread. It may spread through the entire geographical area or region and over time it forms part of the standard expression. According to Wardhaugh, the traditional view of language change records only changes that demonstrate structural consequences as important (1998:8). Moreover, his further findings that is beyond the traditional base reveal that change occur in language externally through borrowing. Hence, the important of borrowing in this paper as one of the sources of Language change which is present even in NP.

Language change shows itself in pronunciation, meaning of terms and sentence formation but Finnegan notes that the most noticeable difference in language change in between generations is in vocabulary. According to Finnegan, what one generation calls hi-fi, car phone; a studious young man or woman, a younger generation calls IPAD and cell phone or mobile phone and in some instances nerd. (2004). In Hickey's view, language change is not just about the rise of new features but about the type of alteration to the configuration of a Language (2003).

Causes of Language Change
Language can change because of people's exposure to other languages that are not their mother tongue, English Language for example has added new words from different Languages of the world. This could be traced to the effect of various conquest of British isle by Scandinavians, Romans and the Normans. Movement of people from one place to another can also cause Language change because new experiences and terms are added to language as people move, science and technology have also created a lot of changes in language. Besides, changes in language can be internal or external. Thus changes according to Hickey that involve the structural constituents of a language which is independent of sociolinguistic influences can be said to have generated internal change. Any change which appears to be triggered and guided by social considerations can be labeled externally motivated change (2003:2). To Hickey, any variation connected with the community or society using a language can be dubbed externally motivated change (3).

However, external variation seems to be more in language change. Trudgil posits that it manifests more in pronunciation perhaps because the speaker's pronunciation is immediately available for assessment by others and hence differences in pronunciation can lead to change across speaker groups that is via accommodation (1988). But internal variations according to Hickey can occur in pronunciation where inter-vocalic consonants become voiced or voiceless (2003). External change can also be caused by contacts with other languages. Despite the fact that contact with other Languages could result into extensive bilingualism, its impact could still create language change. Borrowing is often the result of language contact and could result to external change.

Language change has both positive and negative implications. It can lead to death of a language. Mufwene asserts that change brought about by contact has a positive note on Pidgin,thus:

> … as the Pidgins' communicative functions increased (such as in the cities that emerged from erstwhile trade factories), these "contact varieties" became structurally more complex, and regularity of use gave them more stability. These additional characteristics changed them into what is known as expanded Pidgin like Tokpisin and Nigerian Pidgin English (1998).

Holm also acknowledges while supporting change in NP that pidgin lexicons are usually restricted in size and make up for it through multifunctionality (one word having many syntactic uses), polysemy (one word having many meanings), and circumlocution (lexical items consisting of phrases rather than single words). He also notes that the lexicons have been and are still influenced by European lexical source and according to him that these language changes take place in the following process: lexical loaming or retention, coining, semantic shift, calquing and reduplication.

Oloruntoba in his observation of degree of language change notices that from various speakers' usage and practice that NP lexicon is quite dynamic and in a constant flux comprising the use of basilectal,

mesolectal and acrolectal varieties all at the same time, which means that one can have at least two lexical variations for one word, instances are 'chop' can also be 'eat' 'rishi' for 'rich/reach' etc. Faraclas also supported the lexical process of NP, he is of the view that lexical process of NP are mostly derivational process (multifunctionality, reduplication, compounding, prepositions, serialized verb construction and idiophones) (1996).

Theoretical Framework
The theoretical framework 'variable rule' was officially introduced by William Labov in 1969. Variable rule is commonly used in sociolinguistics and historical linguistics to describe patterns of variation between alternative forms in language use. The mathematical implementation of this variable rule as developed by Henrietta Cedergren and David Sankoff in 1974.

This theory is designed to provide a quantitative model of a situation where speakers alternate between different forms that have the same meaning and stand in free variation, but in such a way that the probability of choice of either the one or the other form is conditioned by a variety of context factors or social characteristics. Such a situation, where variation is not entirely random but rule governed, is known as structured variation. This work, variable rule by Labov, tends to correct the misconception of linguistic variation as quintessentially engaged with phonological phenomena. Variable rule investigates how reflexes of linguistic change through time appear in the shape of structured variation patterns within a speech community. It is therefore, on this premise that the present study investigates the changes in NP among different persons and groups.

Methodology
The data for this study were obtained primarily through naturally occurring casual speech of speakers of NP. Discourses of speakers in public bus, some students' conversations within the university campus and outside the university campus (hostel) and conversations of people in restaurants (Nnamdi Azikwe University) were recorded, written down and textually analysed. The choice of these participants arose because they often use NP and are made up of people from the different parts (tribes) of the country. The changes in NP were studied using Labov theory of variation.

Analysis of Data
The data collected will be analysed here to find out the changes that have occurred in NP and the functional advantage of those changes. Moreso, the sources of these changes will also be taken into consideration while analyzing the data.

Borrowing
Borrowing is simply the process of taking words from one or more languages to fit into the vocabulary of another. English language constitute the superstrate source of borrowing for NP while other local languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and others form the substrate from which NP borrowed some linguistic items. The data below bear some of the borrowed words.
Text 1:
Emma, kasale don burst, I dey cook rice with electric stove, NEPA tek light and I no get gas (students' hostel)
Text 2:
No yawa! I go try collect the note from Nneka tomorrow (students' hostel)
Text 3:
Leave that girl, she too dey do like she sabi everything (public bus)
Text 4:
No one of those girl, wey too dey do inyanga fo class, naim I dey talk (public bus)
Text 5:
Madam put plenty obstacle fo de soup oo! (restaurant)
Text 6:
Na hunger de worry dat pikin wey cry so? (restaurant)
Text 7:
Na my turn to load bus, Sunday won guy me (bus park)

Text 8:

Wayo! Wayo! see as you keep face like good pesin, mumu! (quarrel in the students' hostel)

Text 9:

See yu, na obtain u wan do me so?

Dis one u dey chuk hand for my pocket? (bus park)

Text 10:

D guy veks for bus queue today as de security man slap am, im tink say na tif im be (students' hostel gist)

The table below summarises borrowing from superstrate and substrate language as identified in the data collected.

Lexical sources	NP lexical item	Replaced item	Donor/original meaning	Meaning of NP lexical item
English	veks	vex	annoy	agitation/annoy
	obtained	obtained	to gain or yet	forcefully collected one's property
	obstacle	meat	hindrance	meat in soup
	wash	wash	to clear	to celebrate
Igbo	inyanga	inyanga	show off	show off
	biko	biko	please	please
Yoruba	wayo	wayo	fraudster	fraudster
	ashawo	ashawo	prostitute	prostitute
Portuguese	pickin	child	little child	child
	sabi	know	know	know
	palava	trouble	trouble	problem
Warri slang	kasale	trouble	trouble	problem
	yawa	trouble	trouble	trouble
	kolo	mental	madness	mentally derange
Portuguese	pickin	child	little child	child
	sabi	know	know	know
	palava	trouble	trouble	problem

The degree of borrowing reflects the great extent of the content NP had with its source languages and a great look at the table 1 above reveals that noun is the lexical category that is most affected by borrowing. This is perhaps because nouns belong to open word class that can freely accept more items into its category. Some of the borrowed items in the table retain their spelling and meaning as they are in the donor language while some do not retain their original meaning.

Semantic Extension

In semantic Extension, the meaning of the words are expanded beyond their original or initial meaning. Changes brought about by meaning extension are also evident in NP. Existing words in NP are external beyond their original as seen below:

Text 11:

- a- Oga Ikem no sign the paper again ?
  (Oga means boss) used as : lord, leader, sometimes husband.
- b- Na yu wan jam me ?
  (jam means meet) used as: bump into, hit, experience something

Calquing

Calquing involves the translation of borrowed words or phrases from one language to another. Holm notes that calquing provides evidence for substantial semantic influence of substrate language on pidgin and creoles. Calquing is seen in the NP expressions below:

Text 12:

- a- De man still dey come? Dat man don ple us (deceive)
- b- Leave am, na woman wrapper (woman's wrapper; lady's man)

Realization of Contrastive meaning

Language changes also occurred in NP through realization of loan word for contrastive meaning and to create emphasis. There is attachment of suffix in English words a seen in the data below:

Text 13:

  a- Uchenna, dis won wey bodi dey <u>sweety sweety</u> (excitement) yu like dis.
  b- Lefty (a left- handed person), abeg com go cal mama for me.

Change in meaning based on context

Some lexical items from superstrate source denote entirely different meanings from those conveyed in NP. They acquire new meaning when used in different contexts. This is seen the data below:

Text 14:

I <u>beta pass</u> my nebo fit no be beta property (a particular small or portable generating set). (students' hostel gist)

Text 15:

To dis country, to get job na <u>man</u> – <u>man</u> or you give <u>backhand</u>. If you no get <u>long leg</u> forget am (school bus)

Text 16:

Driver e bi like say yu take coke abi na grass, why you dey turn turn person like this? (inside bus).

Text 17:

Up NEPA! light don come

There is conceptual metaphor in the NP expressions, 'man no man' 'backhand and long leg'. The concepts of nepotism, corruption and favoritism are conceptualized into concrete human bodies. Also, 'I beta pass my nebo' which is now seen as a portable generating set has acquired new meaning due to the context of usage. 'grass' too in the above text represent Indian hem. These bring about changes in the language which has gained general acceptance in NP.

Findings and conclusion

From the study, it is imperative that the emergence of NP as a form of language is largely as a result of language coming into contact and influencing each other. Language contact also leads to the birth of a new language which has the potential to develop, spread or go into extinction, if the communication needs which stated its usage cease to operate. Also, the study shows that different words that have the same meaning are used by different social groups to suit their social needs are also used in NP. Such words like palava, kasale and yawa have their meaning as trouble. To some group, they serve as slang which they use to achieve communicative goal that could distinguished them from their speakers. The study has examined the possible changes in NP *as a lan*guage. It is discovered from the study that NP has undergone some changes over the years through borrowing, metaphorical extension, Calquing, semantic extension, affixation of suffix in existing word to create contrast in meaning and male emphasis.

This study, however, shows that new expressions and words added to NP are so advantageous in some social functions. For example, the expression, I beta pass my nebo is a new expression which was invented in NP as a result of the continuums power usage in the country (Nigeria). The generator set was so called not just as a sign of poverty alleviation but as a symbol implying that it is not every neighbor can afford to buy it. Also, the use of Up NEPA which originated from children as they show excitement whenever power is restored has gained a wider usage. Majority of borrowed words according to findings are nouns because it forms the open category of word class in language that can accept more intakes of new words. The study discovers that when language come in contact, they influenced each other, and when this happens, new words are invented and NP is one of the languages that have emerged out of language contact and this NP have adopted new terms and concepts in response to the social, economic and political exigencies.

This study, therefore, concludes that language contact breeds language change and that NP is emerged as a result of contact between languages: European languages and native Nigerian languages. Also, for assumption of proper interpretation and use of expression in a language, the pragmatic principles,

knowledge of the word and the context of usage must be taken into consideration. The study shows that language change has some positive importance to language as it encourages the dynamism of language. NP which is a contact language is also proved in this study to be the most dynamic language as it changes to suit every context of usage.

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