

LANGUAGE USE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA AND NATIONAL INTEGRATION: CURRENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

The focus of this paper is on language use in the social media. It demonstrated the current trends in the computer mediated discourses as seen on Facebook handle. The alarming rate of 'nationalism' and its possible effect as seen in these discourses which are capable of causing chaos necessitated the need for this study. It explored these trends with the view to ascertaining its challenges to national integration. About forty linguistic properties of the utterances in response to three particular excerpts from events in Nigeria gotten from Facebook accounts constitute the data with which this current trend of language use is demonstrated. The paper discovered that in the midst of this social media revolution, prevalent issues such as crime, violence, conflict, elections and insurgency are discussed online. Their examination revealed that there are predominantly hate speeches especially in reaction to issues of national interest. Most of such discourses are laced with inappropriate use of language exposing the lack of communicative competence amongst users. Judging from the basic components of speech act theory, the paper foresees possible perlocutionary acts which might be in the form of war and possible disintegration. As parts of its recommendations, the paper brought to limelight the need to put in check the destructive use of language on the social media.

Key Words: Social media, Language use, Speech act theory, Perlocutionary, National integration

Introduction

The world as a global village is currently witnessing revolutions in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). One of such is what is known today as Computer Mediated Communication (CMC). Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) according to the Wikipedia is defined as "human communication via computers and includes many different forms of synchronous, asynchronous or real-time interaction that humans have with each other using computers as tools to exchange text, images, audio and video". It is further defined as any human communication that occurs through the use of two or more electronic devices. The revealing fact in these definitions is that in CMC, human interactive dialogues which can be in the form of texts, pictures, videos etc., are exchanged using computer devices. These computer devices include gadgets viz-a-viz computers and mobile phones of various mechanisms. Their connections to certain virtual networks make their posts to be visible to users on their platforms. Messages are exchanged for various purposes and intentions. These CMC necessitated discussions on language change and the digital media. Of particular interest to this paper is the social media. For this paper, the CMC are graphical representation of opinions, facts and ideas in reaction to varying issues on the social media which are done using computer mediated gadgets such as mobile phones and laptops. Many findings have revealed varying degrees of prospects and challenges associated with

it. In terms of challenges, little or none has been done on the area of language being used as an instrument of national disintegration and ethnic bickering. This paper wishes to look into this area. The currency of the social media as a platform for the computer-mediated discourses has indeed called for critical examination by researchers of diverse fields.

Social media refers to those various computer-based interactive handles/platforms that facilitate quick access to, and sharing of pieces of information of various contents through virtual networks. Furthermore, it is defined by the Investopedia as computer-based technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information through the building of virtual communities. The various social media platforms include – Facebook, whatsapp, YouTube, twitter etc. With the advent of this media, it is worthy to note that there have been gains recorded especially in the area of language. One could state categorically that in the area of lexicology, it has really enriched the English language vocabulary. The influx of new lexicons into the language technically referred to as Neologism is an instance. Neologism refers to the coinage of new lexicons/words as a result of the need to graphically represent certain concepts as they arise during the computer-mediated innovations and inventions. The emergence of words like cybercrime, texting, email, e-learning, cybercafé etc., are attributed to this. Indeed, there is no gain –saying the fact that there have been positive impacts of this on language.

However, recently, communications on social media have been brought to the critical lens of language researchers on the communicative competence of language use in disseminating information. Communication competence refers to the ability of a user of language to use language in a way that it will not spark off negative reactions or violence from readers. It entails the effective use of language to achieve peace and douse tensions where necessary. Besides one being competent in the area of grammaticality and intelligibility of language use, there is also the need for one to know the various communicative strategies to say what one needs to say at the right time.

Statement of the Problem

A communicative competent user of the language should know how he/she will say or make utterances which will ensure peace and harmony amongst the listeners and readers. It is pertinent to note that some of the discourses on social media are devoid of this great mastery of language use. What is being explicated here is that some posts on these social media platforms are capable of igniting acts of war in the country. This is trending on social media especially at this present dispensation that the country is going through various challenges. It has become wars of words when it comes to reactions to ethnic, religious or political issues posted on the social media. There are constant graphic misrepresentation of information, falsehood in information shared, intentional or un-intentional releasing of hate speeches and so on. The paper finds these very alarming. That these speeches may have the tendency of creating rivalry, chaos and national disintegration constitute the problem of this research. All these necessitate the big question on the appropriate use of language, that is, the communicative competence in language use. This paper re-directs research light to this area. It is of the postulation that if users of the social media continue to use language to elicit actions capable of igniting hatred, war and ethnic divide, there is really fire on the mountain. Could it be that the communicative incompetent use of language on social media will set this country on her path to destruction? This is a rhetorical question which every user of the social media should have an answer to.

Therefore, the objectives of this paper are to:

- investigate the inappropriate use of language in the social media,
- ascertain the reactions they evoke,
- identify possible outcome of some of the discourses on national integration.

Language, Communication and the Social Media

The notion of language has remained ever current and dynamic in the field of socio-linguistic based researches. Its malleable nature permits it to fit into interdisciplinary researches such as language and ecology, communication, literature, gender etc. Given its role in the overall activities of man, it has continued to influence his existence. One of the distinct features of humans is that they are the only specie with the capability of using both the spoken and written form of language. Such a quality makes language to be human specific. Humans usually use this medium of communication in their daily interactions by so doing foster good relationship. In other words, language use, whether in spoken or written form, is a tool in the hands of humans to advance their social cohesion, societal relations, communication and meaning construct. This brings to fore the existing nexus between language and other discipline, in this case the discipline of mass communication. Language has continued to enjoy complementary relationship with other fields and disciplines. Due to its indispensable role in the lives and activities of the humans, it has continued to receive unabated attention by various disciplines.

Language and communication depend on each other for existence, accomplishment of roles and complementary roles. They co-exist for human interaction. Language is a communication tool that makes us human. It has enjoyed notable definitions by various scholars. Of particular interest to this work is the definition given by Wallwork (1971:12) which views language as “an instrument of action, of influencing and persuading people, of conveying orders and information as well as a thought process”. Suffice it to say that language is an instrument of thought provocation and persuasion as could be deduced from the above definition; it then suggests that its use on the social media could evoke such reactions. This entails that there is the need to carefully implore this means of communication to evoke the right thoughts, decision and actions. However, can one rightly say that these computer mediated dialogue terrain on the social media achieve this goal? This study is engaged to discuss the dialogue terrain of communication in the social media with the view to exposing the possibility of it being a means to an end in the peaceful co-existence and stability of the nation.

The emergence of the internet, ICT so to say, has helped to give another dimension to communication as well as perspectives on language use. Amongst others, this credit goes to the British computer scientist Tim Berners- Lee whose research at CERN in Switzerland in the 1980's, resulted to what we know today as World Wide Web (www) which linked hypertext document to a general information system for easy access. The invention aided digital discourse communication by providing for a social discourse and social networking. It provided easy access to online information and communication as well as social network sites. To engage in these social networking and discourse, language has been put to diverse use. It has passed through various tests and evaluations. On social network platforms, the use of language has been for information sharing and dissemination, entertainment, education, cultural promotions and commerce. All these have had various impacts on language. They have generated research areas which highlighted the aesthetic use of language, grapho-stylistic as well as discourse analysis.

Amongst these digital discourses system is the social media. By social media, one refers to the various networking sites and applications which enable users to engage in social

interactions and networking. It suggests those interactive computer-mediated technologies which enhance the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. The social media as a conceptual framework refer to the various web-based communicative handles that provide platforms for interaction amongst users with the aid of mobile technological gadgets. Through it, hypertext documents are linked for visible and easy access. For BaruahTrisha (2012:2) it could also be referred to as “the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into an interactive dialogue”. Simply put, social media provides the platforms for social networking, communication and information sharing. The various platforms include: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Whatsapp, Snapchat, to mention but a few. In these platforms there are digital discourse and activities, wall posts, music sharing, video calling, life streaming of videos etc. Through the above media platforms, users are enabled to have quick electronic access to these digital discourses. They perform the above various communication functions.

Consequently, the world is presently experiencing great revolution in this regard. New virtual communities and chat groups are created where there are discussions, interactions and exchange of ideas and information. Most of these are done using the written form of language. Because language is used to convey individual’s feelings and opinions, it is bound to be put to diverse forms and shapes to achieve purposes. This thus, exposes it to the critical lens of researchers in language. Meanwhile, amidst this social media revolution, the world, Nigeria precisely is experiencing or about to experience a great catastrophe which might come as a result of information sharing on social media. The trend now is for people to advance their political, religious, and ethnic pride and prejudice through the dissemination of pieces of information on Facebook, which are liable to create big divides amongst her citizenry. The crux of it all is that some of the information generated and shared have malicious intent, all in a bid to advance a certain hidden agenda. More so, some of them are replete with falsehood or deliberately falsified to achieve an aim. Most times, they are followed by pictorials which are inciting. They are generated to work on the psyche of the readers so as to spur them to expected actions.

Social media have the capacity to change the fundamentals of beliefs as well as reshape our perception to events, both at the individual, as well as ethnic and national levels. The vulnerable multi-ethnic, multi-religious and under-developed state of the nation makes her an easy target and a fertile ground for such change. It is quite predictable what the future of this nation will be if something urgent is not done. It is highly dysfunctional that language which should be a tool for social cohesion has been put to negative use, as it has been discovered to have been used to represent ideologies running contrary to this.

For this work, it has become very necessary as well as imperative to reveal this impending Tsunami which poses a threat to the peace and unity of the country. Language use is like a coin of two sides. It is used to achieve double effect. When used constructively, it is capable of promoting peace. However, if used destructively, there is sure to be chaos. For Austin (1962), in his speech act theory, language goes beyond making statements or describing things. It performs a certain kind of action. It can be employed to persuade or spur men to action. The language use on social media today has continued to generate actions, reactions and counter-reactions. Searle’s concept of ‘performatives’ also explores this fact. Furthermore, the act of speech as witnessed in the social media is seen to be performing the illocutionary act. By so doing, the perlocutionary effect either makes or mars the unity of the society. Although, it is without doubt that with the popularity of the internet, the social media have gainfully impacted

the lives and times of the users. However, with the current state of affairs in the country; politically, religious or otherwise, the social media may likely become the spring board that will herald social unrest, instability and insecurity in Nigeria.

Communication is adjudged successful whenever receivers of a message are able to assign appropriate meaning as intended by the sender. It is therefore pertinent to note that the use of language in communication should ensure that its perlocutionary reaction will help unite, stabilize as well as integrate peace in the society. To validate this assertion, Ifechelobi (2012:53) posits that “the more appropriate and effective the language is, the more likely one will create satisfying productive and meaningful relationship in personal, social, business, political, educational and public lives”. Appropriate use of language is indeed a veritable tool in promoting and fostering good relations. There is then the great need for this awareness. Communicators on social media platforms should make use of this tool to promote national stability. A lot of interactions on the social media could be regarded as hate speeches. Hate speeches are derogatory or abusive public statements whether in written or spoken form which targets a particular group of people based on the religion, ethnicity, nationality or gender identity. Most of these statements are prejudiced and intended to demean the target group. The facts presented in hate speeches are often un-substantiated and illogical in interpretation. According to the Cambridge dictionary, hate speech is a “public speech that expresses hate or encourages violence towards a person or group based on something such as race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation”. Hate speeches have become the norm amongst most Nigerian users of social media. Most of these speeches are building up tensions and creating divides in the nation. This research is of the view that if something urgently is not done, this trend of language use on the social media might be a huge volcanic eruption which will sink the, Nigeria.

Communicative Competence of Language Use

The study of linguistics, that is language, is concerned not only with the rules that govern the grammatical constructions of language. Its major pre-occupation is not only on the correctness, style and grammaticality of language use. Rather it also takes cognizance of the communicative competence and correctness of just purposes and intention of a user of the language. Communication which is made possible through the use of language entails the input and output of information which is usually acted upon. Consequently, it is very necessary to employ strategies in the communication acts which will promote peaceful co-existence amongst a particular people as well as their survival. For the function of communication, Lucey cited by Adedun (2010:3) defines communication, as “involving the interchange of facts, thoughts, value, judgment and opinions”. This means that in communication, individual’s opinions, values and interests are exchanged. The social media makes it possible for the above listed to be exchanged. In essence, competence in the use of language on social media should elicit strategies which are capable of promoting unity. How can this be done? One may rightly ask. For Aristotle, it is not complete for one to know what to say but he should also know how to say it in order not to evoke undesired, un-intended or at most ill-intended reactions. To this end, language use on social media should be constructive. This brings to mind the two concepts of competence in language use, linguistic and communicative competence.

Linguistic competence of language use is a concept that is credited to Noam Chomsky (Holmes, 2013:440). It takes cognizance of the grammaticality and correctness of language use. This cuts across competence in the knowledge and application of the rules governing grammar of

a language viz-a-viz sentence construction, concord and agreement etc. On the other hand; communicative competence looks at the mastery of the act of language use to evoke a desired response, a positive response. It denotes knowing how to use the right words to evoke a particular reaction, in this case a positive reaction. Language use on the social media should take care of this communicative competence.

Yule's (1996.197) concept of sociolinguistics competence should also explicate the point here. It makes reference to the ability to make effective use of language and also to give appropriate interpretations. Put in another way, language use should be able to elicit a desired interpretation and response. It is usually for a purpose, to achieve a set target. Worthy of note here is that information disseminated through any social media platform spreads like a wild fire. Imperatively, communication should ensure its target drive will solely be of essence to the stability of any nation. The act of communication should be mastered which denotes a mastery of communicative competence. In this, one places the importance of language in achieving a goal, in spurring men to action, in uniting or dividing a society. Therefore, for a functional society, there should be sensitization on the impending revolution through inappropriate application of the communicative competence of language use on the social media. Hate speeches are devoid of communicative competence and thus should be expunged from language use on the social media.

Language as a Communication Tool on the Social Media: Current Trends and Challenges

In today's world of communication, the social media have generated serious attention and thus criticisms. There is revolution in the area of online sharing of information. This factor has contributed both positively and negatively to the life and existence of humans as well as their activities. Positively we can talk about information disseminated through the social media as having wider circulation and fast reach to the audience. Friendship, reunions, growth of business, awareness, communication, knowledge, etc. are all positive gains accrued to the use of social media. Negatively, the area of information sharing has constituted problems which are as a result of the intent of the person sharing the information as well as the perceived interpretation of the message. Often times, one witnesses the social media content generating reactions, counter-reactions, sentiments and argument amongst users. All these are perpetuated through the language used in communicating these intentions.

Language has been identified as an indispensable tool that is employed for communication in their various platforms. How effective this communication is, determines the course of life available to the users. This reveals that if language use is not implored effectively, it will greatly have negative impact on the co-existence of the users. For language to be used effectively, one needs to possess the communication competence required of a user to keep peace and order in the society. However, a study of the various social media handles reveals the fact that it many a times exposes the minds of individual posters which have been ravaged by conflict, animosity, acrimony, violence, to others through their posts. This has been made possible through the improper use of the communicative function of language. Nigeria is a multi-ethnic nation. Multi-ethnicity has provided her with people of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cultures. To this effect, it is very easy to induce tension and acrimony amongst her citizenry. When reading the social media computer mediated messages, the air of disunity is always felt. One can easily discern a divide between at least the three major ethnic groups – Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa. More so, constant friction can be seen between these two religion adherents -Islam and Christianity. This greatly calls for an urgent attention. One could find out

that most cases of ethnic/religious rivalry are boosted by the communication acts on the social media. Language as an act is capable of moving men to action. Thoughts are transformed into words which when released hit the target. In the tenets of pragmatics, language makes way for meaning construct and interpretation, just as Wallwork sees language as an instrument of action, of influencing and persuading people, of conveying orders and information as well as a thought process. This illumines the current use of language as instrument of influence and persuasion on social media which poses great challenge to the unity of the country. If this is not contended with, it can serve as an act of igniting war. The social media have indeed provided the keg of gun powder in the form of hate speeches which is waiting to explode at the right time. There is great need for caution so as to ensure peace and harmony as well as national integration. Ahumaraeze and Nwachukwu (2016) have it that “every human society depends on some forms of communication network, from the most primitive to the most advanced to function effectively” In other words, for the nation to function effectively, these defamatory and destructive use of language in communication on Facebook should be desisted from. One of the categorization of language use as hate speech is very explicit when some dialogic language use on social media is examined. This can never make the human society to function effectively. Hate speeches are capable of causing violence and igniting wars. It is very crucial to discuss briefly the triad concepts of the Speech Act Theory which forms the analytical tool of this research.

The Speech Act Theory

In his work, ‘How to do Things with Words, in 1962, Austin, J L, propounded the Speech Act Theory. The theory talks about how to do things with words, how utterances can be used to achieve effects or intentions. In the theory are three basic concepts: the locutionary, the illocutionary and the perlocutionary acts. The act of locution deals with the production of meaningful utterances, utterances that are intelligible to the audience. Here, he argues that every speaker produces words or sentences that must be deducible by the listener. Furthermore, he postulates that every communication has an intention, purpose or an effect the speaker sets to achieve. They might be to create awareness, information dissemination, making a promise of igniting a war. In an illocutionary act we find this. It is therefore achieved when the audience is being influenced to think, believe or react according to the feeling evoked by this intention of the speaker. Simply put, an illocutionary act carries the effect of the intentions of the speaker. The feelings or reactions evoked by these utterances result to actions. These actions are what are known as perlocution. In other words, the perlocutionary act is the outcome of the effect of the meaningful utterances by a speaker.

Methodology

This is a descriptive research. About forty comments constitute the data to be analyzed which are selected from the CMC in the social media with particular reference to the Facebook accounts of users of Nigerian origin. For the issue of currency, the data are selections from reactions or comments on the issue of the conduct of some Nigerians in Diaspora communicated by the special adviser to the president on Nigerians in Diaspora, as was posted on the 3rd of April, 2019. The pictures of the persons involved in the Facebook postings are removed for obvious reasons of anonymity. The theoretical lens of the Speech Act theory would be used to analyze these data.

Analysis of the Selected Excerpts from the Social Media

The current state of affairs in the nation is made worse by these hate speeches freely rolled out on the social media Facebook platform. With the political, religious and ethnic differences in the country, it is very easy for an intentional or unintentional misuse of language to constitute divides amongst the people. Most of the excerpts of the social media dialogue illumine these perceived challenges which might be explosive at the appointed time. They give a tip of the iceberg of the current trends of language in use on the social media dialogue. These excerpts are without ill-intention culled from posts on current happenings in the country taken from Facebook. They are used only to buttress the academic postulations of this research and nothing more.

EXCERPT A: MEMO TO MRS ABIKE DABIRI- EREWA A ‘YEYE’ TRIBALIST

Background Information: the above is the title of a post on Facebook by Scanneews on April 3, 2019 at 14:04pm. It is a reaction on a purported prejudiced presentation of the issue of Nigerians in Diaspora who were found guilty of criminal charges as reported to the country by Mrs. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the special adviser to the president on Diaspora Issues (President Buhari’s 2015-2019 regime)

The above memo generated many malicious statements as will be highlighted below.

EXCERPT B: CRIME HAS NO ETHNIC FACE: BY SAHARA REPORTERS

Background Information: this is a follow up post which addressed excerpt A post and its generated comments. It presented an objective assessment of the earlier post. Instead of accusing Mrs.Dabiri-Erewa, it states that crime has no ethnic face, neither is it motivated by the virtue of one being from an ethnic group. He says it is an individual decision to commit crime. However, this still generated interesting reactions and comments

EXCERPT C: NIGERIAN WOMAN EXECUTED BY SAUDI ARABIA FOR DRUG ‘TRAFFIC...’

Background Information: in this post, the name of the Nigerian woman involved in drug trafficking was disclosed as Mrs. Kudirat Adesola Afolabi which still sparked off reactions that poses as challenge to the unity of this country

NB: The excerpts are attached to the paper as appendix.

Discussion of the Utterances Emanated from these Excerpts

EXCERPT A: Utterances 1, 3 & 4: the use of these words as ‘Yeye’ shameless, tribalistic, useless, tribalism champion in these utterances to refer to Mrs. Dabiri –Erewa. In writing this comment, the writer revealed the way he or she feels about the woman. The act of locution comes vividly here as the message is intelligible to the receivers which evoked several reactions. These are defamatory terms unbefitting of such an appointee of the government. Irrespective of the issue at stake, such is against the communication competence maxim of language use Utterances 2, 5, 6&7: the language used here also in the illocutionary act evoked the feelings of hatred, acrimony and already perceived marginalization amongst the various tribes. Utterance 2’... they are from the hated tribe in Nigeria....’ Illumines this

Furthermore, excerpt B generated about thirty-two comments- utterances 8-30. A read through these comments evoked the illocutionary acts which revealed questions on the continued

existence of the country Nigeria. In 8, 11, 15 and 25, such is made explicit; there is an already call for cessation, for disintegration. The speech act concept of perlocution would be achieved if this call pulls through, that is, if the nation is eventually disintegrated. In this, this paper raises alarm as it sees this as a challenge to the unity of the country. The language use here made no mistake about this as seen in these performative verbs –‘MUST’, ‘HAVE TO GO BACK’. There is a wave of tension building up amongst the Igbo, the Yoruba and Hausa/Fulani as they constantly castigate one another. There are drums being beaten by these posts. Whether, they are drums of war or peace is left for the future to tell. Just as utterance 26 points out –“only God knows how it will end”. But a critical mind would predict correctly. Although, there are posts that applied the communicative competence tenets, for instance, utterance 24 rightly posits, these crime have no bearing on the ethnicity of the culprit, rather on individual basis. However this is one utterance as against many who are constantly using abusive and derogatory terms. These are hate speeches whose perlocutionary act might be a result which is capable of igniting war in the country as a result of the social media. Utterance 23 also explores this fact.

Furthermore, excerpt C generated utterances illumine the fact that the trend in language use on the social media is such that calls for an urgent solution. Despite the direction of this post, published by the SUN Nigeria, there are still wars of words which could cause a possible perlocutionary act in the centre Nigeria not holding any more. Utterances 31-40 explicate this. These still suggest that people are disillusioned by the continual existence of the nation. The derogatory term ‘Zoo’ has already been ascribed to the name Nigeria as utterance 36 showed.

Language use evokes reactions. They are used to perform actions, illocutionary and perlocutionary actions. In the entire posts reacting to excerpt A-C, there are instances of the speech Acts illocutionary effect. By uttering such sentences, commands, threat, abuse, etc., these acts are being performed. This paper believes that these performative utterances if they are not properly checked, the perlocutionary act might not be in the interest of the nation’s unity. Language use indeed in its communicative competence performs an action. Just like Noshitake quoted in Ndiribe (2016) stated “a statement does not only describe a situation or state some facts, but also performs a certain kind of action by its self”

Conclusion

This paper is concluded by stating that the current trend in the language use on social media is the predominance of utterances that could be termed as hate speeches, which cause more harm than good to the nation. Its scope of language use is filled with anger, resentment, disillusionment, pride and prejudice, acrimony, insults, derogatory and defamatory terms and what have you. It is gradually affecting the emotion and psyche of those who read them on the social media handle. The truth of the matter remains that these pent-up emotions are waiting to be diffused. Language is thought and action. By uttering sentences, language is used to initiate an illocutionary act, once the illocutionary act is initiated, definitely what follows will be the effect, the reaction to the speaker’s message, the perlocutionary act. Therefore, to prevent this perlocutionary act, language use on the social media should be devoid of hate speech. To this effect, this paper after x-raying the current trend of language use on the social media has brought to limelight these facts. Firstly, every society thrives on the dialogic use of language; therefore speeches that are capable of creating national divides should be avoided. Secondly, the peculiarity of the nation in terms of multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-religious divides should be a matter of concern. Reasons for separation and national disintegration are seen when one navigates the social media handles. Comments that question the continued existence of this unity

constitute the arguments, even when most of them are illogical and prejudiced. For this paper, the improper use of language on social media, especially some hate speeches could be a bomb that is waiting to explode.

Recommendations

Therefore, this paper advocates the need for constructive comments which are capable of de-escalating conflicts amongst these already existing divides. Language use is like a mask of two sides; one motivates peace and the other escalates wars.

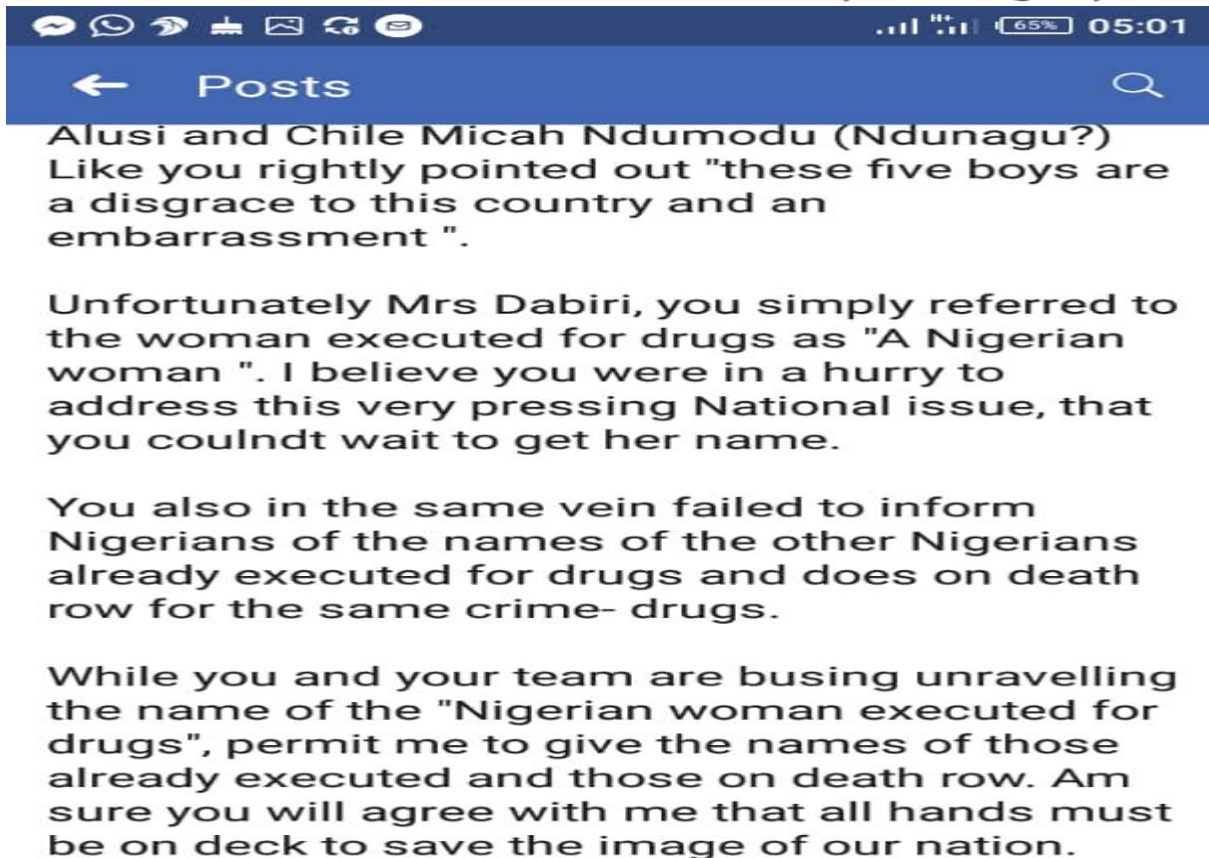
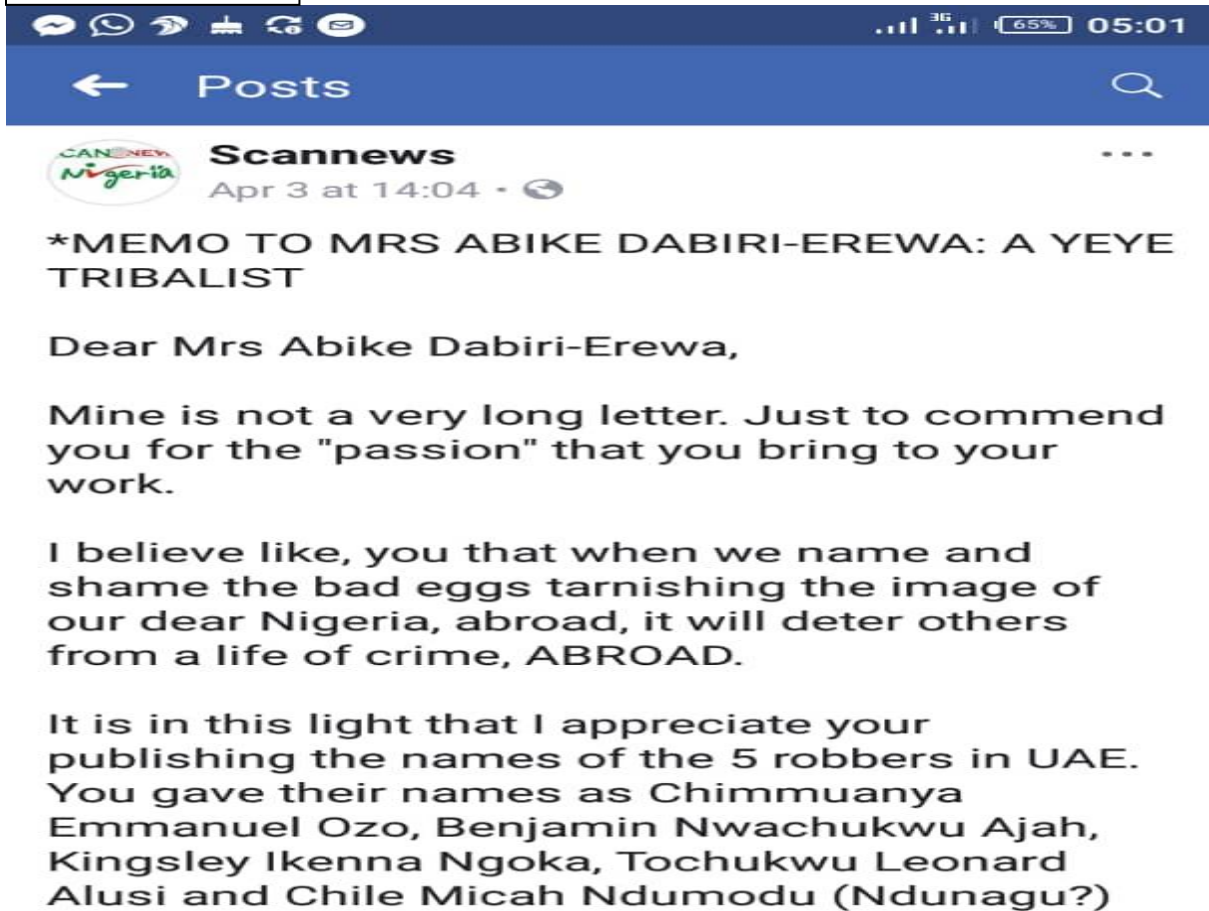
For national stability and integration, societal relations as well as continued peaceful co-existence and tolerance, language use on the social media in Nigeria by Nigerians should be devoid of these comments which are regarded as hate speeches.

This paper is of the view that the way issues are raised, discussed and handled on these media sites might someday transform to missiles with which avoidable wars would be fought. Imperatively, language use on social media should be devoid of malicious pieces of information; hate speeches which are capable of igniting hatred amongst users.

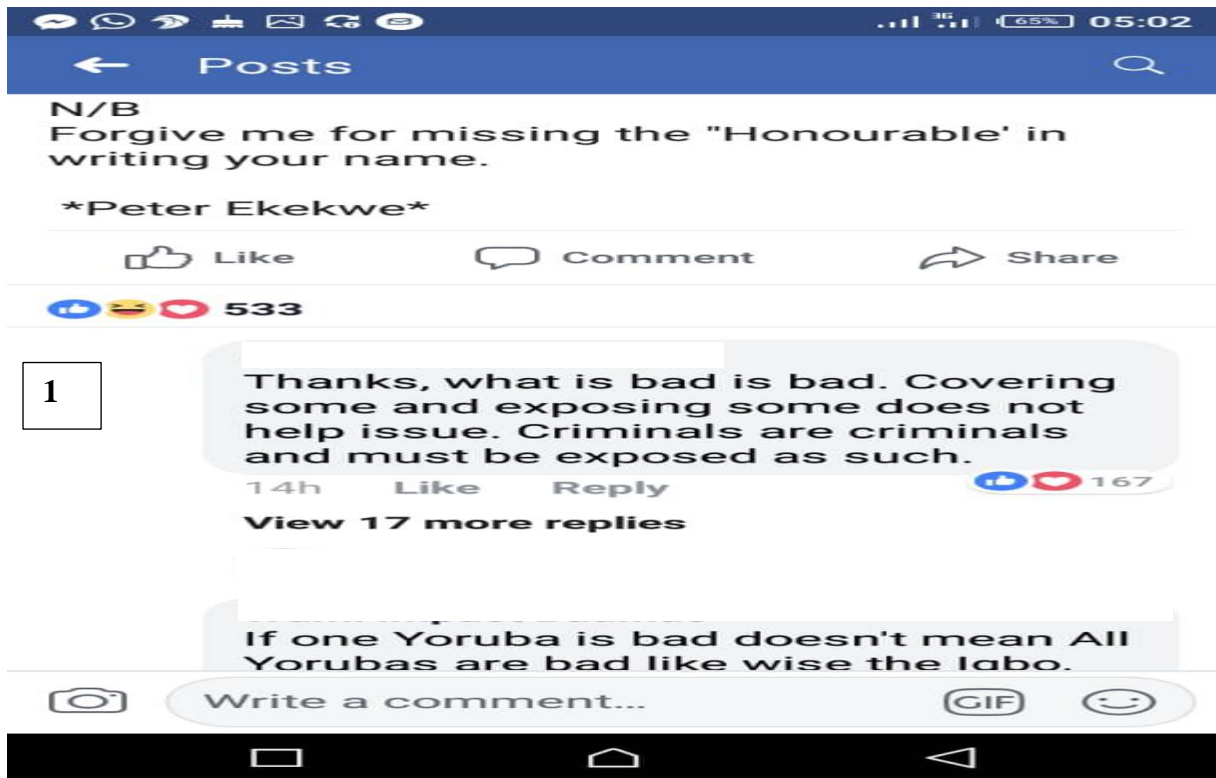
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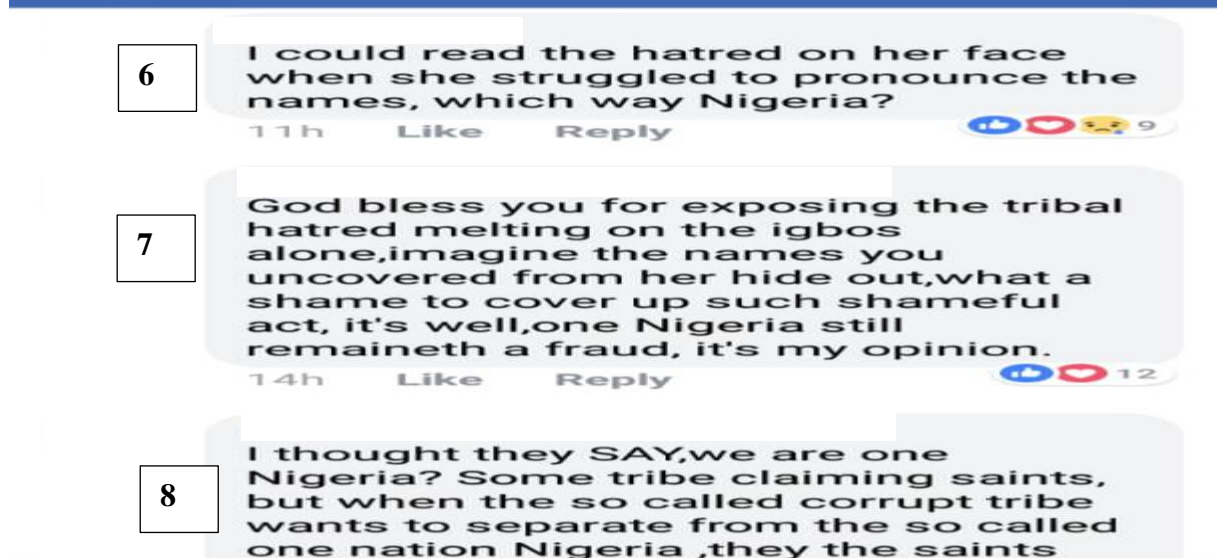
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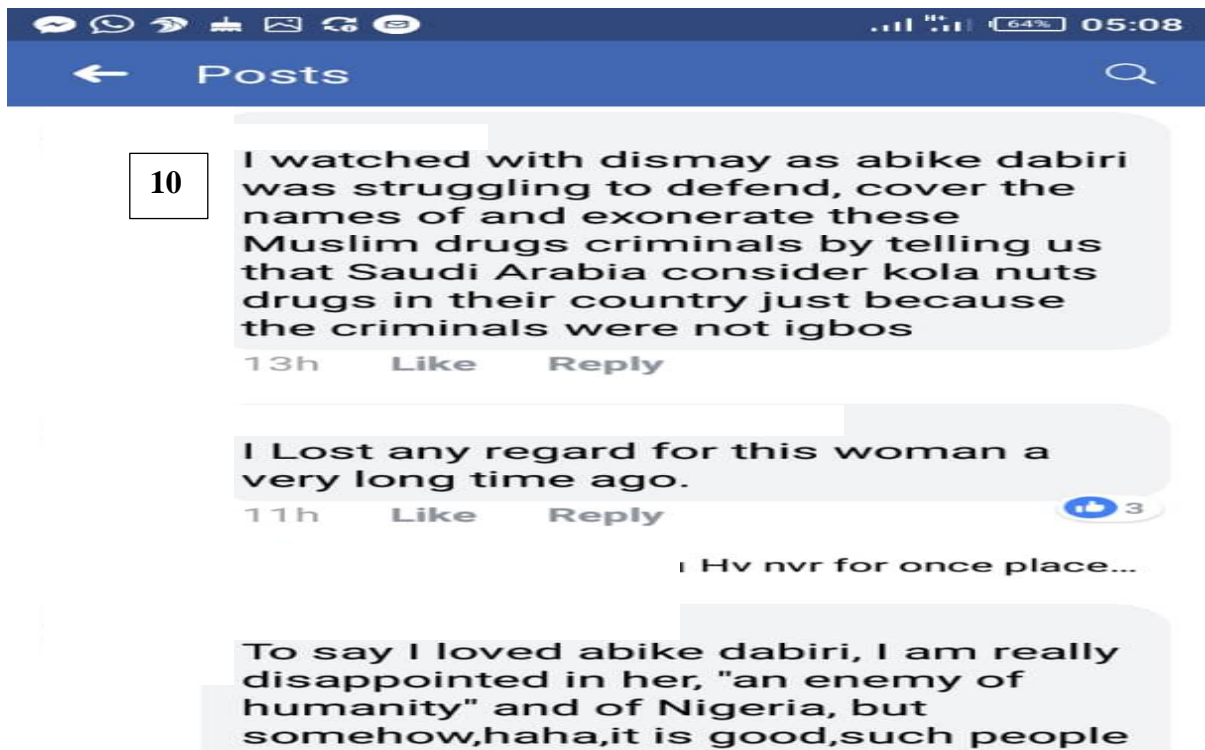
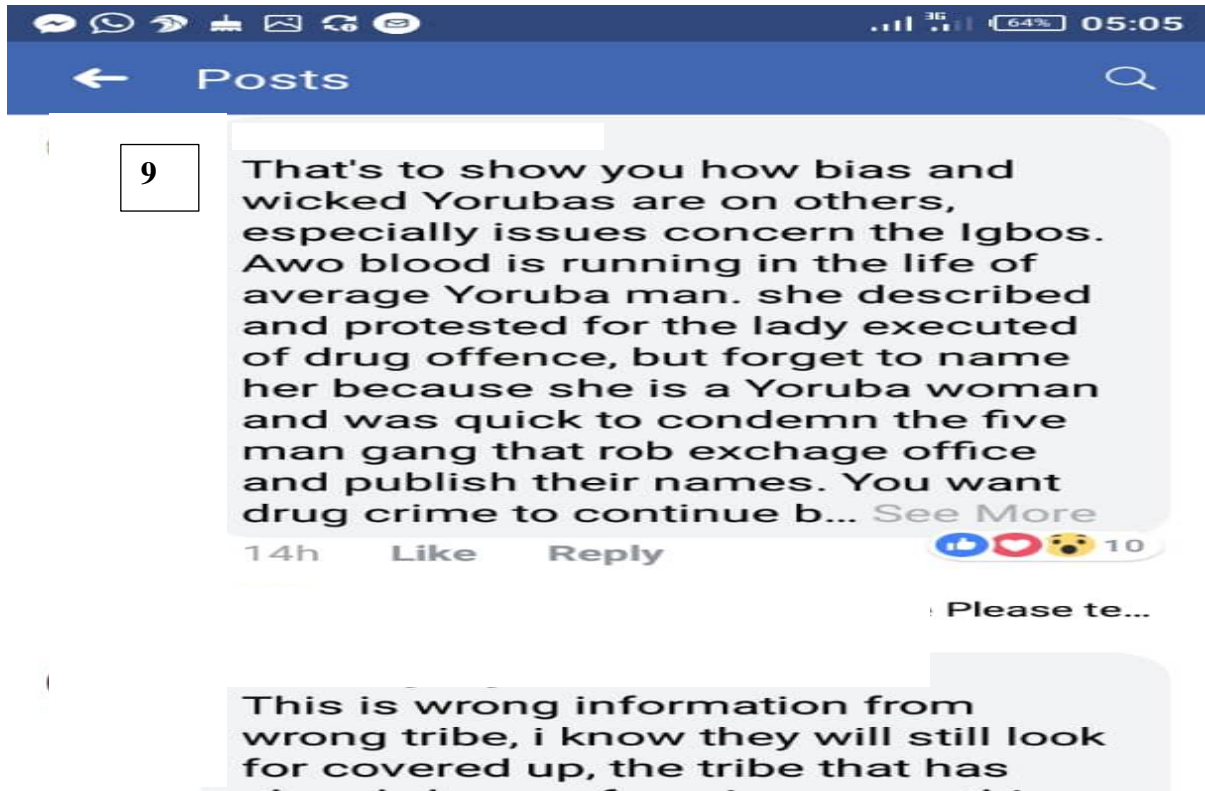
EXCERPTA











EXCERPT B



Sahara Reporters

Apr 3 at 22:18 · 🌐

Crime Has No Ethnic Face By Fredrick Nwabufo | Sahara Reporters

Individuals commit crime, not the ethnic group. The motivations for crimes do not come from the ethos of any tribe, but from personal greed, debauchery and decadence. All ethnic groups in the country have a culture which abhors crime. The Igbo, the Yoruba and the Hausa cosmology extols the virtues of modesty, morality, hard work, fairness and justice.

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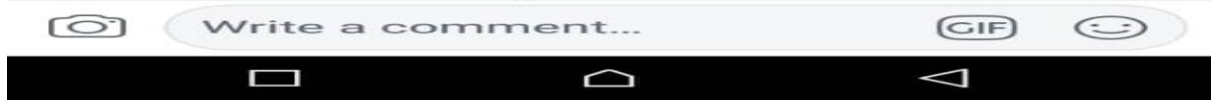
11

It is a wake up call to Nigeria government. If they claim Nigeria is one, issues of sentiment should be removed in criminal case. Nigeria government should work by showing good example that will convince Nigeria youths that there is hope. To be sincere, Nigerians are been rubbed; politically(true inec) economically, education, power, NNPC,..... in fact who will young Nigerian use as role... See More

13h Like Reply

12

Look at the kind of people who are made ministers in Nigeria. Morally bankrupt and tribal bigots. She no reach to play that kind of nonsense script because when you mention drug Lordship, her guess is as good as mine as per which tribe is lead



country and stop painting every issue with religion and tribal sentiment

12h Like Reply

13

just excuted olamide ayomide le in china last weekend

Like Reply

14

THIS IS WHAT THE YORUBAS ARE KNOWN FOR. THAT IS THE ADVANTAGES THE ABOKIS , THE NORTHGERIAS ARE USING AGAINST US IN THE SOUTH

← Crime Has No Ethnic Face B... 🔍

15

Crime knows no tribe. it unfortunate the hate and sentiment has clouded our mind. it's very unfortunate that most tribe see the UAE robbery as are mockery against the igbo. But don't forget that' in 2009 Umar farouk abdulmutallb an Hausa boy had a bomb on his pant in a flight going the united state. His actions almost got Nigeria added to the list of state sponsoring terrorism. So will most under... See More

5h Like Reply

16

Good piece, but the hatred majority of the Yoruba and Hausa tribes have for the Igbo man has beclouded their sensibilities that some of them

← Crime Has No Ethnic Face B... 🔍

sensibilities that some of them cannot see beyond their noses.

2h Like Reply

17

Just a cover up because a particular tribe is involved. If its Fulani, you can stereotype them all, but now that its your tribe, you are blowing grammar.

7h Like Reply

View 10 previous replies

18

The word 'Igbo' is more synonymous with crimes globally than any other word. Igbo have brought enough shame to Nigeria. I look forward to a day Nigeria will be disintegrated so that the rest of us could walk head high outside Nigeria.

📶 🔋 52% 05:45

← Crime Has No Ethnic Face B... 🔍

must exit this fraud called Nigeria? As an Igbo man,if not that I have an imposed Nigerian passport with me,no one knows me as a Nigerian.

7h Like Reply

19

Not for Igbos and Tivs. Both have criminal tendency in their tribe, particularly the Igbos. That is why the Igbos are being termed as viruses in every party of Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and other parts of the world

25m Like Reply

Nigerian drug traffickers who are on death row in Suadi Arabia are as follows:
1. Yusuf Yekini Ajiboye
2. Adedoye Adesiji



20 OK, you're right. But I wonder why this sermon is coming up at this time? When it's given in good faith, it's a welcomed development
6h Like Reply 2

Just like crime has no religious face.
7h Like Reply 3

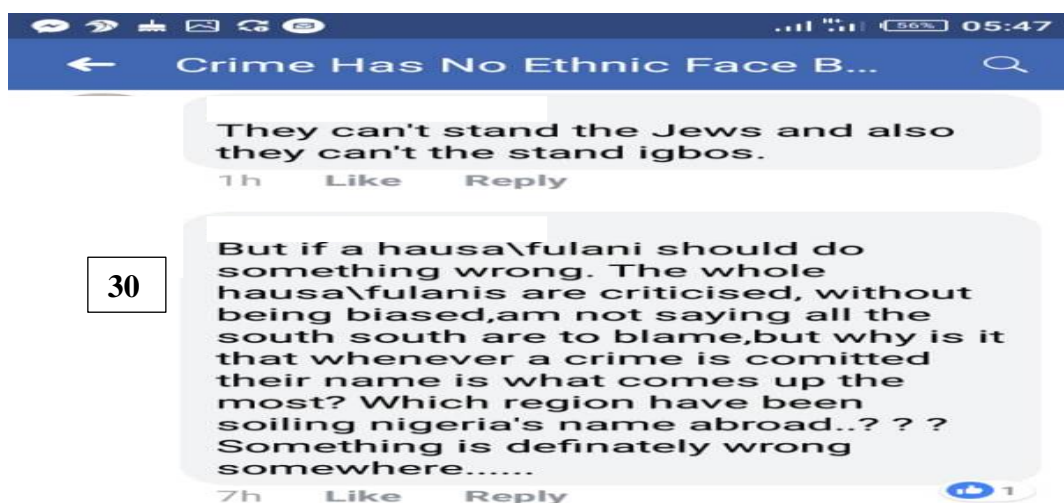
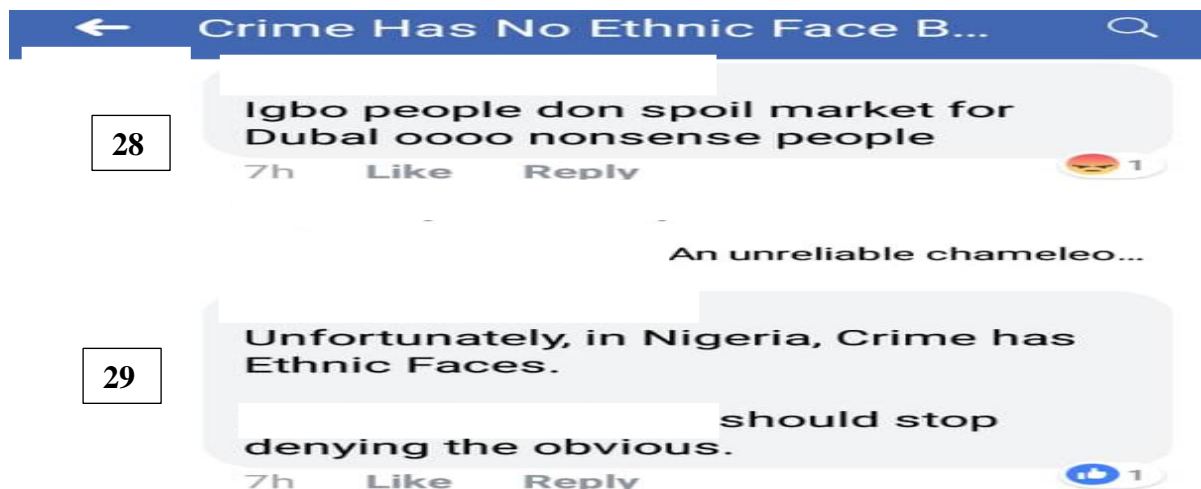
21 75% of crime in Nigeria are committed by the Igbos they kidnap they rob they sell arms and ammunication to the fulani herlsmen, they import illegal arms to the nation and they displace their hatred for other tribes in Nigeria
5m Like Reply



22 Tribal conflict always start with igbos against other tribes on social media.
3h Like Reply 2

23 I agree with you absolutely. Let each criminal be treated as individuals and duly punished according to the law of the land.
7h Like Reply 6

24 Lets divide Una no gree; what do you want from the Igbos? Cant you people start anti-Igbo campaigns and protests in your wards,states,regions and at the assembly demanding that the Igbos must exit this freud called Nigeria?





EXCERPT C



35

you know nothing about drugs,the igbo boys dealing on drugs are small hawkers, yorubas are the original dealers ask kasamu, what of that one that was hold for days by drug law that is sick now,the yoruba actor. let me tell you many yorubas are in jail in Indonesia too just wait until widodo win his second term,I can give you 6 yoruba names,I visited the prison they are in surabaya... See More

36

So how best could he have said it?OK he should have kept quiet ,it will be believed that all crime committed abroad are been committed by the ibos.

1d Like Reply

2

1d Like Reply

37

Idiot he will keep quiet for the stupid conspiracy theory against a targeted race to continue abi ?is this the first tym such wickedness is been meted on Igbo's.you guys will keep hating,and frustrated.

1d Like Reply

1

38

He is wrong because they are your tribe men abi? Hypocrite.

18h Like Reply

39

I thought you ofemmanu people are saints.

18h Like Reply

40

Adelowo, the names of those killed and awaiting execution are/were released by the Saudi authority. So what's your points? So it's good for Abike to name and same a tribe and in same vain not name the Yorubas/Muslims involved with drugs in Saudi?? Your stupidity has a degree.

14h Like Reply