# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN IGBO DICTIONARIES

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**Abstract**

Dictionaries are essential tools to users of any language be they native or non-native users. Linguistic information provided by most dictionaries includes phonology, grammar and semantics. From the linguistic point of view, meaning can be literal / denotational or figurative / connotative. This paper investigates the presentation of figurative language in Igbo Dictionaries. Data for the study were drawn from some extant Igbo dictionaries.The method of study is bibliographic and comparative as it compares the presentation of figurative language in the selected dictionaries. The study discovers that figurative language is represented in varying degrees in Igbo dictionaries and concludes that future Igbo lexicographers need to improve on the work of earlier lexicographers by using symbols to indicate figurative language which throws some light on creativity and dynamism of Igbo language use.

## Introduction

Williamson (1987:9) states that Crowther published the 1st Primer in Igbo language in 1857 and the first vocabulary in 1882 while Afigbo (2008:31) indicates that a bureau for the study of Igbo language flourished till the late 1930s. However, Echeruo (2001), Ugochukwu and Okafor (2004), and Mbah et al. (2013) show that since the publication of "An extensive Wordlist of Igbo in 1841 by E. Norris, lexicographic work in Igbo language has been very progressive. The studies of Chukwukere (2005), Oweleke (2009), Uchechukwu and Oweleke (2015) agree that Thomas' (1913).*Ibo-English / English-Ibo Dictionary*' is the oldest extant Igbo dictionary. Moreover, Emenakọ's (2005) *Nkọwa Okwu igbo n'Okwu Bekee (Igbo-English Dictionary)* is the most recent Igbo dictionary examined in the above-mentioned studies on Igbo lexicography. With regards to these studies, Chukwukere investigated sexist language in two extant Igbo dictionaries, Oweleke (2009) examined the treatment of extensional suffixes in three extant Igbo dictionaries, Uchechukwu and Oweleke (2015) studied verb categorization, and Oweleke (2018) dwelt on Igbo dialects and lemmatization in Igbo dictionaries. It is noteworthy that none of the studies mentioned examined figurative language in any extant Igbo dictionary. Therefore, the paper seeks to advance available knowledge in Igbo extant dictionaries by examining figurative language in some Igbo dictionaries published from 2001 to 2018. The paper adopts the analytical and comparative method as it presents the figurative use of some Body-Parts in the Igbo dictionaries selected for the study.

**Types of dictionaries**

As essential tools for language use, dictionaries come in different sizes and are designed to meet needs of specific users. According to Jackson (1988:157) a dictionary is first a commercial product. According to Ogunkeye (2006:75) "many dictionaries are commercially oriented, but commercial considerations should not be allowed to override quality, functionality and usefulness…" Furthermore, Jackson (1988), Chukwukere (2006) and Oko (2014) depict that there are General-purpose dictionaries, Specialist or specialised dictionaries, Learner's or scholarly dictionaries, dialect dictionaries, and technical dictionaries. Dictionaries may be monolingual, bilingual, multilingual / plurilingual Whereas Jackson (1988) indicate that these different types of dictionaries are readily available in English Language, Jamiu (2012) shows that both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries exist in Arabic.The works of Chukwukere (2005), Uchechukwu and Oweleke (2015) and Oweleke (2018) show that all extant Igbo dictionaries are bilingual, from Igbo to English or from English to Igbo.

**Studies on Figurative Language and Lexicography**

Meaning is a central concern of most dictionaries. Hence, literal and figurative meanings feature prominently in lexicographic studies. For the purpose of this paper, we will retain Ogbulogo's (2005:75) definition of figurative language from the perspective of semantics. According to him, "in semantics, figures of speech operate from the point of extension of meaning resulting in polysemy or transfer of sense. Thus, figurative language is often perceived to be metaphoric. In a more general sense, figurative language covers different devices which are semantically or grammatically marked or unmarked…" On her part, Wojciechowska (2010) investigates "Metonymy representation in English monolingual learners' dictionaries: Problems and solutions." In the same vein, Moon (2011) opines that linguistic creativity is an integral part of language use and explores how three current British monolingual dictionaries deal with such phenomena. Furthermore, in her work on "Figurative language and lexicography", Deignan (2015:1) "explores the issues in dealing with figurative language in dictionaries. It uses the understanding of 'figurative language' that is generally shared by applied and corpus linguists, as opposed to scholars of poetry and literature. In this understanding, 'figurative language' covers all uses that are understood in some way as being an extension or transference of meaning from a literal meaning; the term is not restricted to novel or creative uses. Deignan also bases her study on three monolingual English Dictionaries. Writing from the perspective of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) / English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, Stockdale III (2019:) opines that because figurative language is such an integral part of common, everyday language, EFL / ESL teachers should teach the terms literal and figurative at the beginning level and say them at least as often as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb are said in the classrooms. In the same vein, Lazar's (1996) study on "Using figurative language to expand students' vocabulary" reveals that English learner dictionaries deal differently with the figurative

extensions of a word's meaning and that these extensions form an intrinsic part of the lexicon of the native speaker, even if the relationship to the literal meaning of a word has been forgotten or obscured.

**Figurative Language in some extant Igbo dictionaries**

This section of the essay presents extracts of some Body-parts in some Igbo dictionaries with a view to ascertaining how figurative meaning is represented in each of the dictionaries chosen for the study. It is noteworthy that though Okeogu (2015), and Okeogu and Chukwu (2019) investigated Body-Parts Metaphor in Igbo, no Igbo dictionary is cited in their work. Again, Mbisike's 2005 study on Igbo lexicology which treats Body-Parts metaphors as a sub-theme, mentions only Williamson's dictionary (1972). Though Onu (2016) presents some Body-Parts in her study "A Sociolinguistic Study of Idiomatic Expressions in Edda", the author does not cite any Igbo dictionary in the work. In the same vein, no Igbo dictionary is cited in Okoye and Mmadike's 2016 study 'Meaning and interpretation of Igbo body-parts based idioms.' Hereafter, we attempt to relate Body-Parts, figurative language and extant Igbo dictionaries.

i) Figurative Language in Nnaji (1995) *Modern English-Igbo Dictionary with illustrations.* New Edition.

The author explains in the preface (p. iv) that the Dictionary meets the needs of the pupils learning English Language in Upper Primary and Lower Secondary Forms in Igbo speaking areas in Nigeria and non-Igbo people who want to learn the Language.

**Extracts**

**Back** n. dị n'azụ, maọ bụ azụ. Situated behind or hinder part (p.38).
**Belly.** n. afọ, part of body which contains bowels, stomach (p.45).
**Body** n. ahụ mmadụ ma ọ bụ anụ ohịa;; isi ọ bụla ihe otu, whole frame of man or animal; main part of anything; organised persons. (p.53).
**Ear n.** isi ogbe ọka; ntị, , head of corn; spike, part of the body ( p.124).
**Eye** n anya, organ of sight (p.139)
**Face n.** ịhu, front of head, surface or chịef sịde of anythịng (p.139).
**Hand** n. aka. Extremity of arm beyond wrist (p.163)
**Head** n. isi. Upper part of man's or animal's body containing mouth, sense organs, and brain (p.164).
**Heart** n. mkpụrụ obi, organ which makes blood circulate (p.164).

**Knee n.** ikpere ụkwụ. Joint between thigh and lower leg (pp.188-189).
**Leg** n. ụkwụ, one of limbs on which person or animal walks, runs, stands or anything which supports as leg of table (p.193).

**Mouth** n. ọnụ. opening in head for eating, speaking, etc.(p.215).
**Nose** n. imi, organ of smell used also in breathing (p.224).
**Tongue.** n. ire, muscular organ inside mouth used for taste, speech, etc.

**Tooth.** n eze, one of the white hard bone like structures rooted in gums used for chewing and biting (p.327).

**Comments:** We observe that for some entries, **f**igurative language is presented minimally after the literal meaning whereas only literal meaning is presented for others. Where indicated, no symbol or label is used to show figurative use.

ii) Figurative Language in Echeruo's Dictionary (2001)
In the introduction (p.vii) the author writes "This Dictionary of the Igbo Language is an attempt at a comprehensive reference work. It collects meaningful free-forms from various dialects of Igbo, and provides summary or extended meanings with examples as necessary. Because it was not conceived of as a 'learner's dictionary', this volume has not tried specifically to find or provide equivalents for particular English works… users anxious to find Igbo equivalents for particular English words may have to turn to the English-Igbo index for the closest synonym."

**Extracts**
**Part 1 Igbo-English**
aka n [HH] branch; limb; tendril.
Aka n [HH] manner; style, way.
Aka n. [HH]; [1]hand, finger-aka apula gi= God forbid!; Lit:
May [your] hand never act on its will; [2]handle; attachment to an object by which it can be held, lifted, or carried. Var. eka (p.14).

**afö** n [HH]**[1]**belly; stomach; abdomen; entrails; intestines; also womb..
Var. ah**ö**; ab**ü** (pp.6-7).

Af**ö** n [HH] tube; tyre; any inner tubing made from rubber or similar material – afö moto= motor tyres; afö taya = tyre tube. * A meaning derived by analogy with 'afö'= stomach, intestines (p.7).
.
**Afö öma** n [HH HH] goodwill or favour; kindness-nwee afo oma ebe m no= have goodwill towards me (p.7).

ahü n [LH] body; body surface or skin; flesh. Var. **arü**; **eshu**
**ah**ü okü n [LH HH] fever, high body temperature associated with illness; Lit: hot (or warm) body. Var. **arü ökü**
**ah**ü ike n [LH HH] good health, health or well-being (p.13).

Aka ab**üö** n [HHLHH] double-dealing; stealing; theft
Aka az**ü** n [HH LH] bribery; dishonest dealing.
Aka enwe n [HH LL] deceit; foul play
Aka ike n [HH HH] tight-fistedness; cruelty-ö na-eme aka ike = he is tight-fisted; he can be cruel (p.14).

**anya** n [HH] eye.
**anya ike** n [HH HH]boldness; aggressiveness (p..23)
**anya ukwu** [HH HH] greed,; covetousness (p.24)

**Azü** n [LH] [1] the area hehind; back or backside; …n'azü m= behnd my back; [2]back (of the body) azü m = my back (p.29)

**Ihu** n [HH] [1]face; front; general appearance-ihu ülö = frontage of house; [2]countenance. Var. iru (pp.70-71).

**ikpere** n. **[**HLL] knee, var. ikpele
**Gbuo ikpele** v [HH HHH] kneel; go down on at least one knee, as token of respect; genuflect. Var. gbuo kneel; go down on at least one knee, as token of respect; genuflect. Var. gbuo ikpere. (p.72).

**Gbuo ikpere** v [HH HHH] kneel; go down on at least one knee, as token of respect; genuflect. * See 'sekpuru''= go down on both knees.

**imi n.** [HH] nose, nostril – imi mpïa= flat nose (p.73).

**ire** n [HH] tongue; flame or tongue of fire. Var. ile (p.73).
**ire ökü** n HH HH] flame; Lit: tongue-of-fire var. ile ökü (p.73)

**ire ütö** n [HH LH] flattery; smooth talk…Lit: sweet tongue (p.73)

**isi** n.[HH] [1]human head, skull; brains; intelligence…, isi akwukwo= Brains:head for books; [2]source or origin; stronghold or epicenter-isi mmiri= source of a river….[3]topic; subject matter; issue or conclusion- isi okwu = issue at stake or subject matter…var. ishi (p.74).

**Isi akwara**. n. [HH HH]. Obstinacy…
**Isi ike** n [HH HH] stubbornness, obstinacy
**Isi okwu** n [HH HH] subject: subject matter; issue.
(p.74).
**ntï** n. [HL] ear, ear lobe.
Ntï ike m [HLHH] hardness of hearing – nwee ntï ike = has hardness of hearing [2]stubbornness – onye ntï ike = stubborn person (p.113).

**Obi** n. [HL] [1]chest; upper half of the body above the rib-cage;.. [2]heart (both literally and metaphorically)- [3]soul; spirit; heart- obi **ö**ma= kind soul, kindness.
**Obi n [HL] temper or disposition- obi ökü= quick or hot temper**
**Obi ike** n [HL HH] hard-heartedness
Ob**i öma** n [HL HH] kindness. * See '**ögö**', 'af**öö**ma'.
(p.119).

ö**n**ü n [HH] [1]mouth**,** opening; entrance to house**-** ö**n**ü üzö = gate; entrance; entrance door…(p.140).
ü**kw**ün. [HH] [1]leg; foot lower limb- afo ukwu = calf Lit: bowel of the leg. [2]stand (p.166).

**Part II English-Igbo Index**
Hand n aka [HH]; eka [HH] (Afikpo) (p.217).

**Comments:** in the Igbo-English Part of the dictionary, after the literal meaning of each Body-Part, an appreciable effort is made to include its figurative use or extended or derived meaning. However, the English-Igbo index Part of the dictionary lacks the elaboration that includes figurative use of the Body-Parts as shown in the extract "hand".

iv)Figurative Language in Ugochukwu & Okafor (2004) *Dictionnaire igbo-français…*
In their introductory remarks, (p.13), the authors note that this is the first attempt to publish an Igbo-French Dictionary based on Standard Igbo and the official orthography.

**Extracts**
**Afọ** n. estomac (m), ventre (m)
*afọ njọ, ojọọ mechanceté
*afọ ọma gentillesse (f), bonté (f)

**àhụ[1]** n. corps (m)
àhụ ọkụ fièvre (f).
(p.38).

**Aka** n. main (f), bras (m).
Aka àzụ pot de-de-vin (m), paiement illicite, corruption (f).
Aka ike (1) énergique, actif (2 avare…)
(p.41)
**Anya 1 n.** oeil (m).
*anya ike courage (m), avidité (f). Chuka nwụrụ anya ikē, Chuka aime dominer.=45.
anya oku …jalousie (f), envte (f).
anya ukwu avidité (f), cupidité (f).
(p.46).

**àzụ** n. dos (m)
àzụ akā (1) revers (m), dos de main. (2) hypocrisie (f) (p.48).
.
**ihu** n. face (f), visage (m), front (m)
ihu ọcha bonne humeur, gaieté (f). Pita nwere ihu ọcha, Pierre est de bonne humeur.
ihu ọjọọ mauvais augure, sinistre présage. Onye ihu ọjọọ, un messager de malheur
ihu ọma chance (f), heureux présage. I nwere ihu oma igu akwukwo na mahadum, tu as de la chance d'aller à l'université.
n'ihu devant, à l'avenir, en face
(p.86).

i**kpèrè** n. genou (m) voir –gbu 5… (p.87).
**-gbu 5 v.t.** (1) saluer… (2) faire une génuflexion, s'incliner devan qqn en signe de respect.
**-gbu** i**kpèrè** flechir le genou, faire une génuflexion, rendre hommage

**-gbu 5=**p.v.t. (2) faire une génuflexion, s'incliner devan qqn en signe de respect.
*-gbu **i**kpere flechir le genou, faire une génuflexion, rendre homage (p.77).

**Imi** n. nez (m). Voir oghere imi, -su imi=p.84.
**.su 6** v.t. employé dans *-su imi = froncer le nez en direction de qqn (en signe de dédain. (p.164).

**Ire** n. langue (f).
**Ire** ọkụ flamme (f).
(p.84).

**Isi =** p.85 n. (1) tête (f), chef (m)
Isi aka pouce (m)
Isi awele, awere chance (f).
*isi ike entêtement (m). obstination (f), opiniâtreté (f)
*isi okwu sens d'un mot, essentiel (m) d'un discours, point (m) important.
(p.85).
**ntị** n. orelle (f)
ntị ikpo entêtement (m), obstination (f)
(p.130)

**Obì.** 1 n.coeur (m), poitrine (f).
Obì agụ̄1) Coeur de lion (litt,: Coeur de lêopard), brave (nm) (2) audace (f), vaillance (f), courage (m).
*Obì ikē duretê (f) de Coeur, insensibilitê (f)
*Obì ọkụ̄ coeur colêreux
(p.137)

ọ**nụ̄**n.(1) bouche (f).= p.153
* ọnụ̄ mmiri okwu discours (m), mot (m)
* ọnụ̄ okwu êloquence (f)
* ọnụ̄ oma politesse (f)
(p.153)

ụ**kwụ.** n. pied (m), jambe (f).
*ukwu oma bonne chance (f), fortune (f).
(p.178).

**Index français-igbo** (French-Igbo Index)
Extracts
genou ìkpèrè (p.225)

nez imi (p.239)

**Comments:** The extracts show that for all the Body-Parts represented in the igbo-français part, figurative meanings are given after the literal meanings. However, the French-Igbo extracts show that the français-igbo Index lacks the inclusion of figurative uses.

iii) Figurative Language in Mbah et al. (2013) *Ìgbò Àdị: igbo-English / English -igbo Dictionary of Linguistics and Literary Terms*

As the title indicates, this is a bipartite specialised bilingual dictionary of linguistics and literary terms that has all the terms explained in the Igbo-English and the English-parts of the dictionary. Our extracts from the dictionary will be taken mostly from Part i- Igbo-English to enable us understand clearly the presentation of figurative use in Igbo language as presented in the dictionary.

**Extracts**

Part 1- Igbo-English

**ahụ azụ ọkọwa okwu**-ihe e depụtara n'azụ akwụkwọ iji kọwakwu ndịna ya bụ akwụkwọ -back matter

**ahụ ihu akwụkwọ** - nchọcha e dere n'ihu ọkọwaokwu iji gbaziere ọgụụ ụzọ ọ ga-esi mata ma nweta ihe ọ na-achọ ọsịịsọ - front matter

**ahụ ọkọwa okwu** - body of dictionary
(p.41)

**ahụ akụkọ** - ụdị mkpụrụ edide e ji ede akụkọ n'akwụkwọ akụkọ - body type (p.103)

**mmamahụ** - akparamagwa mmadụ na-akpa kwa mgbe ma bụrụzie nke e ji mara ya – habit (p.110).

**Anya**

**nlekwasị** anya - ịtụdo okwu dị n'ime ahịrị aka site n'ibufete ya n'ọnọdụ nrụmaka-= focus (p.60).

**mmepe anya** - ọnọdụ agamnihu ma ọ bụ ọnọdụ mgbanwe mmadụ site n'isi baa nịhụ ụzọ ma ọ bụ dị ala baa na nke dị elu -civilisation (p.110).

**mwemanya** – ogo ma ọ bụ mmasị nke ime mmụọ maka mmetụta ahụ ihe - vividness (p.111).

**Aka**

**Aka nka** – njiri mara dị iche iche e ji asụsụ akọwapụta ụdị agụmagụ, oge e bu n'uche, echemeche ndị a ọnụ n'ime agụjagụ - style =p.3 (we think it's deried bt not indicated).

**ọkọwa okwu ntụzi aka** - prescriptive dictionary (p.46).

Aka oru occupation (p.69).

**Otuz**i aka ngalaba akuku- news director (p.100).

Oru aka- manual work (p.115).

**Azụ (back)**

**Okwu mkpemazụ** - **ep**ilogue (p.20).

**Azụ okwu** – irony (p.24).

Nganazu odabere- enclitic (p.39).
Nsonazu- suffix (p.40.)
Azu echiche- antonym (p.58).
Otu azu- outgroup (p.67).
Nderede aka- manuscript (p.92).
Mmeputa ikpeazu- post production (p.97).
**Nd**inazu- past tense (p.130).

**Ihu**
ndịnihu - anterior (p.34).
nganihu - prefix =p.39
**Ikpere**
Imi
Mkposo mkponimi- nasalization (p.34).
**Ire**
**Gbasara azu** ire- dorsal (p.33).
Mkponihu ukwu ire (MUI)- advanced tongue root (ATR) (p.34).

**Isi**
**isi agwa** – agwa a hụrụ kwawa okpu n'ejije, iduuazi ma ọ bụ fiim, bụ onye na-ebu out ihe ma ọ bụ nke ọzọ n'isi, ka emereme na-aga n'ihu - protagonist (p.8)

**Isi okwu** – 1. ihe mebere ọkpụrụkpụ okwu ma ọ bụ okwu akpụ n'ọnụ n'agụmagụ - subject matter 2.echiche ma ọ bụ mmebere ọrụ na-apụta ugboro ugboro n'ọrụ nka – theme- (p.8).

**Obi**
**ejije akpụ obi** – emereme ngosi nke e ji oke ike na mmeghari ahụ dị egwu mara, nke onye ntụzi aka ejije mba Rọshịa, a kpọrọ Vsevolod Meyerhold, wepụtara n'afọ mateghete na iri abụọ - biomechanics (p.6).
**Asụsụ mbunob** – asụsụ a na-ekwu maka ya kpọm kwem - target language (p.27).

Nhatu obi- comic relief (p.13).
Obi nkonelu / nkonume- suspense (p.19).
**ọnụ (mouth)**
**agụmagụ ọnụ** - agụmaụ ekwuru n'ọnụ - oral literature (p.24).
**asụsụ ọnụ** - asụsụ a sụrụ naanị n'ọnụ - spoken language (p.48).

**ụkwụ**
**ndenụkwụ** - edide nriba ama n'ụkwụ edide ọzọ - subscript (p.92).

**Part II**
**English-Igbo**
**Extracts**
**back matter**- the back part of a book, usually presented as an appendix, which gives extra information about a dictionary or book- ahụ azụ ọkọwa okwu (p.172)

**body of dictionary**- the content of the dictionary usually covering the lexical entries from A-Z in analphabetic dictionary-ahụ ọkọwa okwu (p.172).
**front matter**- articles in the dictionary usually written by scholars or educators intended to guide the readers on how to interpret given information and get the items of information as quickly as possible-ahụ ihu akwụkwọ (p.174).

**Comments:** The linguistic creativity manifested in the Igbo-English and the English-Igbo extracts above explain clearly that the dictionary is fully bipartite and that figurative language or extended meaning is an indispensable tool to the Igbo specialized lexicographer.

iv) Figurative Language in Akponye's *Bi-lingual Dictionary of the Igbo and English Languages…* (2014)
In the introduction (p.viii), the author explains that the dictionary is for students of Igbo language. The dictionary has an Igbo-English part and an English-Igbo part. Our Body-parts extracts from the dictionary will be based mainly on the Igbo-English part to enable us understand the presentation of figurative uses in Igbo language.

Igbo-English
**Extracts**
**Afọ** n. Stomach, Belly, Abdomen (p.5).
**Afọnjọ** n Wickedness, Unkindness, impiety
**Afọọma** n Charity, Benevolence, Generosity, Goodwill, Kindness, Munificence

**Àhụ** n. Body)
Ah**ụọkụ.** n Fever
(p.8).
**Aka** n Hand
**Akaazụ** n. Bribe, Bribery
**Akaènwè** n Hanky-Panky
(p.9).

**Anyā** n Eye
Anyaadighimma n insanity, Mental illness, Psychosis, obsesson.
Anyaọkụ **n Envy, Jealousy**
**Anyaukwu** n Greed, Greedness, Avarce, Rapacousness, Rapacty
(p.15)

**Àzụ** n Back, Behnd
**Àzụogè** n Lateness
**Àzụokwu** n Opposte
(p.18)

**Ihu n Face = p.95**

**Ihuọjọọ** n Bad luck, ll-luck, unluckness, Msfortune.
**Ihuọma n** Good luck,Luck, Fortuty
(p.95)

**Ikpèrè** n Knee
**Ikpèreàlà** n Homage, Reverence
(p.96).

**Ire** n Tongue
**Íré ọkụ** n Flame
(p.99).

**Ísí**n Head, Chapter
**Isiaka** n Thumb
**Isiakwarà n** intransigence, Obstinacy, Stubbornness
**Isiawele** n Good fortune
**Ísíike** n insubordination, Recalcitrance, Stubborness
(p.99).

**Ntị**n Ear
**Ntịike** n Difficulty in hearing
(p.213).

**Obì ihu** n Front chest (p.227).
**Obì ike** n Strong heart
**Obì** n Heart
**Obìọjọọ** n callousness, heartlessness, cruelty, Evil-mind, Wickedness
**Obiọkụ** n High temperament
(p.228).

**Ọnụ**. n. Mouth
**Ọnụọjọọ** n. Foul-tongue, impudence, Sauciness
**Ọnụokwu** n. Voice.
(p.244)
**ụkwụ**. n. Foot, Leg.
**Ụkwụeruàlà** n. Non-Stop
p.281

**English-Igbo**
Heart **Obì**
Hearlessness **Obìọjọọ**

**Comments**: In the two parts of the dictionary, literal meaning is presented first, then figurative uses though no symbol or label is used to indicate figurative use.

v) Figurative Language in Igboanusi's & Mbah (eds., 2017) *English-Igbo Glossary of HIV, AIDS and EBOLA-Related Terms*

According to the editors, "created especially with both medical practitioners and health care consumers in mind, the bilingual glossary provides authoritative and local definitions for a wide range of terms in the HIV, AIDS and Ebola debate as well a practices and health conditions related to the epidemics…." (p.v). This is the second specialised dictionary under study.

**Extracts**

**Afọ**

| S/No | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **889** | **Indigestion (p.164)** | Pain or discomfort in the stomach associated with difficulty in digesting food. | **Mgbarụ afọ** | Mgbu ma ọ bụ mgbarụ afọ, nke egwerighi nri ọsịịsọ na-ebute. |
| **1001** | **Malabsorpti on syndrome (p.186)** | Decreased intestinal absorption resulting in loss of appetite, muscle pain and weight loss. | **Afọ echeghi** nri | Nke a bụ nsogbu mgbaze nri nke na-egosipụta enweghị mmasị iri nri, ahụ mgbu na ntamahụ. |

**Ahu (BODY)**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **115** | Antitoxins (p.115) | Antibodies that recognize and inactivate toxins produced bybcertain bacteria, plants or animals. | **Nche ahụ** | Nche ahụ, nke na-amata ma ghasa ike nsị nje bacteria, osisi, na anụmanụ na-ebute. |
| **140** | Ataxia (p.27) | There is incoordination of gait and balance, and it is due to damage of the cerebellum and spinal cord. Alcoholism may also result in such imbalance. | **Orịaahụ oma jijiji** | Enedhị ike ịkwụrụ nke ọma, mkpatara ya na-abụ mmebi ọkpụkpụ ụbụrụ. Aṅụrụma nwekwara ike ịkpata ụdị akwụdonwughị ahụ a. |

**Anya**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **566** | **Empirical** (p.106) | Empirical evidence, data, or knowledge, also known as sense experience, is a collective term for the knowledge or source of knowledge acquired by means of the senses, particularly by observation and experimentatio n. | **Gbasara nhụ̀rụ̀nanya** | Ihe a na-ahụ doro anya, dị ka ngwa nchọcha ma ọ bụ mmụta nke a bụ okwu mkpọta e ji akọwa mmụta ma ọ bụ ebe e si mụta ihe tụmadị site na nhụrụmanya nchọpụta na nnwale atụtụ. |
| **1570** | **Yellow fever (p.291)** | Yellow fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The "yello" in the name refers to the jaundice that affects some patients. | **Ịba ọ̀cha n'anya / anya edo** | Nke a bụ ajọ ọrịa nje, nke na-agba onye o nwetara ọbara, nke anwụ-nta na-ebute. 'Edo' dị n'aha a pụtara anya edo edo, nke anya ndị ọrịa nwetara na-acha n'oge a. |

**Aka**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **136** | **Assisted childbirth (p.27)** | An **Ass**isted birth is when a baby needs help to be born with the aid of special instruments. | **Ènyèmaka n' ọmụmụ nwa.** | Nke bụ enyemaka n'oge mmụtụa nwa site n'iji ngwa mmụpụta nwa. |
| **147** | **Auxiliary (p.28)** | Acting to support or supplement a | **Ǹnyèmaka** | Ọdịdị ire n'ịkwado ma ọ bụ inyere out aka |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | group of people | | |
| **226** | **Boxed warn**ing (p.42) | The strongest form of warning required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for prescription drug labeling. **…** | **Ọkwà ntụziaka** | Nke a bụ amamọkwa karịchara nke ndị out NAFDAC na-enye maka enyemọgwụ….. |

**Azụ (back)**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **925** | **Intrathecal** (p.172) | Injected into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord | **Gbàsara gburu gburu ọkpụkpụ azụ** | Mgbanye ihe na mmiri ahụ gbara ọkpụkpụ azụ okirikiri. |

**Ihu (face)**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **318** | **Clinical progression (p.62)** | Advance of disease that can be measured by observable and diagnosable signs or symptoms. For example, HiV progression can be measured by change in CD4 count. | **Nganihu ọrịa** | Ogo ọnọdụ ọrịa nke e nwere ike ịtụ site nịchọpụta njirimara ma nsireme ya. Ọmụma atụ, e nwere ike iji mgbanwe n'ọnụ ọgụ CD4 chọpụta etu ONA si agadebe n'ihu. |
| **624** | **Face mask (p.117)** | A covering for the whole head or the face alone either to protect or disguise the face. | **Ngwa mkuchi ihu** | Mkpuchi isi niile ma ọ bụ sọọsọ ihu iji chekwa ma ọ bụ mee ka a ghara ịmata onye. |

Ire

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1466** | **Trush (p.272)** | Sore patches n the mouth caused by the fungus candida albicans…. | **Ire ntukasi** | Ọnya ọnụ, nke nje ebu Kandda albakans na=akpata… |

**Isi**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **161** | **Base**line (p.31) | **1)** information gathered at the beginning of a study from which variations found in the study are measured. 2. A known value or quantity with which an unknown is compared when measured or assessed. | **Ozi isi ǹbụ́** | 1. Nke a bụ ozi e nwetara n'isi mbido iji tụọ mgbamonwe a chọpụtara n'ọmụmụ ahụ. 2. Ihe a ma ka ọ ha nke e ji atụnyere nke a na-amaghị etu ọ ha. |
| **739** | **Headache (P.138)** | A pain felt deep within the skull. Most headaches are caused by emotional stress or fatigue but some are symptoms of serious intracranial disease. | **Isi ọwụwa** | Mgbu nke a na-enwe n'ime isi. Nchekasị ahụ, ike ọgwụgwụ na-akpata imirikiti isiọwụwa mana ụfọdụ na-abụ nsireme ajọ ọrịa ime isi. |

**Nti**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1568** | **XXX** | The Ebola hotline to speak to local community leaders for advice if Ebola is suspected in any community. **(p.291)** | **Akara ekwenti gbata gbata** | Akàrà ekwe-ntị, nke e ji akpọ Eze ala mgbe ọ bụla ọ dị ka Ebola abatala n'obodo. |

**Obi**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **748** | **Heart transplant (p.140)** | To transfer an organ or tissue from one body to another or from one place in somebody's body to another | **Mbenye mkpụrụ obi** | Mbenye akụkụ ahụ ma ọ bụ anụ ahụ site n'otuonye gaa n'onye ọzọ ma ọ bụ site n'out akụkụ ahụ mmadụ gaa n'akụkụ ahụ ọzọ |
| **1175** | **Per**icardium (p.220) | A fibrous membrane that forms a sac surrounding the heart and attached portions of the main blood vessels | **Àkpà obi** | Ahụ àkpà obi nke gbara mkpụrụ obi okirikiri ya na mbuọbara gbakwụnyere ha. |

**Ọnụ**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **335** | Cold sore (p.65) | A small painful blister on or near the lips, or sometimes the nose, caused by the virus Herpes simplex. | **Ǹtụk**àọ́**n**ụ́ | Nke a bụ ọnyana-afụ ụfụ n'elu ma bn'egbugbere ọnu, ma ọ bụ n'oge ụfọdụ n'imi, nke nje Hepis simpleks na-ebute. |
| **1173** | **Around the anus (p.220)** | | **Gbàsara okirikiri ọnụ ike** | Gbàsara gburu gburu ọnụ ike. |

**Ukwu**

| S/NO | SOURCE | DEFINITION | IGBO | TRANSLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1134** | **Oral Pol**io **Vaccine (OPV) (p.212)** | This isadrug used to prevent an infectious viral disease affecting the central nervous system that causes paralysis. | **ỌgwỤ mgoch**i **ntụrỊ ụkwụ** | Nke a bụ ọgwụ a na-enye iji gbochie ọrịa nje na-emetụta agịrị ụbụrụ etiti na-ebute ịda ngwọrọ. |
| **1208** | Poliomyelitis (p.226) | **Th**is is an infectious viral disease affecting the central nervous system that causes paralysis. | **OrỊa ntụrỊ ụkwụ** | Nke a bụ ọrịa nje na-efe efe nke na-emetụta usoro agỊrỊ etiti (UAE) ma na-akpata mkpọnwụ akụkụ ahụ. |

**Comments:** We think linguistic creativity manifested in the Igbo-English extracts above ? explain clearly that figurative language or extended meaning is an indispensable tool to the Igbo specialised lexicographer.

vii) Figurative Language in Echebima (2018) *Igbo Dictionary of infinitive and imperative Verbs*

This is a specialised dictionary. In the introduction (p.vi-vii), the author states that it is ' is important that the learner takes the study of the verb seriously… The compilation is done to help the learner to build a rich store of vocabulary of verbs (without the tenses)….' In what follows we list some Body-parts and some extracts in the dictionary where those Body-parts occur.

**Extracts**

Afọ

| | |
|---|---|
| Inwe afọ ike | to have constipation (idiom) |
| Inwe afọ ojuju | to be satisfied (idiom) |
| Inwe afọ ọjọọ | to be wicked (idiom) |
| Inwe afọ ọma | to be kind-hearted (idiom) |

(p.14).

**Aka**

ihi aka n'anya to be very careful (idiom)
iji ihe n'aka To be busy, to have something to do (idiom).
(p.7).

ime aka abụọ to be prone to stealing (idiom). (p.15).

inye aka to help, to assist (idiom) (p.14).

inwe aka ike to be miserly, to be tight-fisted (idiom) (p.40)

Anya

Ileli anya to look down on someone or something, to underrate Someone, to disrespect (idiom) (p.11).
Inwe anya ukwu to be greedy (idiom) (p.14).
Inwe olileanya to have hope (idiom) (p.15).

Eze

Ija eze (1) to show teeth
Ija eze (2) to show scorn, to mock, to discount one's action (idiom)
(p.27).

Ihu

Inwe ihu ọma to be lucky (idiom)
(p.14)

ikpere

igbu ikpere n'ala (1) to kneel down
igbu ikpere n'ala (2) to kneel, beg for pardon (idiom)
(p.6).

Isi

Inupu isi to disobey, to show disrespect (idiom) (p.13).
Ime isi ike = to be stubborn (idiom) (p.12).

Ntị

ịdọ aka na ntị to warn severely (idiom) (p.22).

Obi

Inwe obi ike to be hard-hearted, to be stubborn (idiom)
Inwe obi ọcha to be kind, to have a good mind (idiom)
Inwe obi ọjọọ to be unkind, to be wicked (idiom))
Inwe obi ọmiko to be kind-heart, to have compassion (idiom)
Inwe obi ọma to be kind (idiom)
(p.14)

ọnụ
ighe ọnụ (1) to stay open (a door) (idiom) (p.6).
ighe ọnụ (2) to be on talking terms as friends (idiom) (p.6).
ịgụ ọnụ to count the number (idiom) (p.24)
ịgụkọ to count all together (p.24)
izụchi ọnụ to shut someone's eyes or sense of justice through bribery received (idiom) (p.39)
ụkwụ
inwe ụkwụ ọma to be lucky (idiom)
inwe ụkwụ ọjọọ to be unlucky (idiom)
(p.15)

**Comments:** First, literal meaning is presented followed by figurative use of each of the Body-parts shown in the extracts. All figurative uses are indicated with the symbol (idiom).

**Conclusion**

Our investigation of figurative language in extant Igbo dictionaries reveals that Igbo Lexicographers present both literal and figurative language in their works. However, details of what is presented and how it is presented brings to the fore the principle of choice which characterizes language use. We observe that Nnaji's (1995) minimal presentation of figurative language has been improved on in latter dictionaries. With regards to the non-specialised Igbo dictionaries studied, it seems to us that Akponye's bi-partite presentation, that is, Igbo-English / English-Igbo is more helpful in developing linguistic creativity in the two languages in contact than an English-Igbo Index (Echeruo) or a French-Igbo Index (Ugochukwu & Okafor).

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