Okodo, A. I. 2006. *Igbo youths and their Language*. A lecture presented on the occasion of the Ofala Festival of His Royal Highness, Igwe, E. V. Okoye, at the Faculty of Law, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, 24th May.


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**Igbo Technical Dictionary Compilation: A Stimulating Experience**

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**Abstract**

Scanning through bookshelves in university/college libraries or bookstands in bookshops for written materials on Igbo language and culture, one would easily discover that Igbo dictionaries are the least available. In spite of the indispensable pedagogical role, which dictionaries generally play in the learning process at all levels, there is, as of now, only a few published Igbo dictionaries, most of which are rather substandard and scanty in terms of form and content. By implication therefore, this area of Igbo language development – lexicography - has strangely been relegated to the background. This ugly situation poses great difficulty not only to Igbo students alone, but also especially to none Igbo speakers, who study Igbo as a second language. However, this is not the case with the other two major Nigerian languages: Hausa and Yoruba, where one has quite a good number of well-developed monolingual, bilingual and multilingual dictionaries. Therefore, through practical examples of monolingual, bilingual and multilingual dictionary compilations, this paper is intended to create awareness in this direction as well as prove to Igbo scholars that Igbo dictionary compilation could be a stimulating experience.

**Introduction**

Compared with Igbo language, English has experienced “more than 1,500 years of development” (Microsoft Encarta 2006 CD) and English lexicographers have not stopped working on the language. In the case...
of the Igbo language, perhaps not more than six Igbo dictionaries have been published between 1923 (when the first Igbo dictionary was written by Dennis, T. J.) and now. In other words, the lemmas and their explanations in some of these dictionaries are either too scanty or too dialectal to be called Igbo dictionaries in the real sense of the word. Again, scanning through bookshelves in public libraries or bookstands in bookshops for written materials on Igbo language and culture, one can easily discover that Igbo dictionaries are the least available. In other words, there is now a sizable number of Igbo publications on grammar, linguistics, culture and civilization, as well as Igbo literary texts, such as novels, anthologies (collection of poems) and drama pieces and critical works on them. Compared with the number of available Igbo dictionaries, one perceives that the area of Igbo lexicography receives the least attention from Igbo intellectuals, in terms of research and publication. Agwu agrees with this view that the “... writing of Igbo language dictionary has been strangely neglected by lexicographers” (iv). The reason for this lacuna is not far fetched. Unfortunately, many Igbo native speakers, including some intellectuals, still express the erroneous view that the Igbo language is lexically too scanty for use as a formal instrument of communication and for discussing and documenting certain subjects, especially in certain areas of the humanities and sciences. Hence, they do not consider it worthwhile to venture into its lexicography. Drawing from a corpus of research-based Igbo technical neologisms resulting from previous research efforts, this paper intends to prove that the Igbo language is indeed lexically rich enough for discussing and documenting any discipline in the humanities or sciences, as long as the stakeholders are willing to engage in the neological and lexicographical development of the language.

**Definitions**

Whereas lexicography is the creation, compilation or writing of dictionaries, Bready (Microsoft Encarta CD) defines dictionary as “listing of the words of a language, usually in alphabetical order but sometimes also by topic, with their meanings or their equivalents. A dictionary may also contain pronunciations, syllabifications, etymologies (word histories), and examples of usage.” In other words, a dictionary is a reference book, which contains the lemmas or words of a given language listed alphabetically and explained, using simpler words. A dictionary may also provide carefully formulated sentences or selected quotations designed to illustrate contextual and grammatical usages of a given word. In addition, phonetic transcription of each word is shown to depict its pronunciation, although this may not necessary be the case in an Igbo dictionary, since Igbo words are generally pronounced the way they are spelt.

There are monolingual, bilingual and multilingual dictionaries. A monolingual dictionary is one in which both the word list and the meaning(s) are given in the same language. In a bilingual dictionary, the lemmas are listed in one language and their explanations given in another language. A multilingual dictionary deals with more than two languages. Here, the three or more languages are juxtaposed in such a way that the user can easily view the lemmas and their explanations simultaneously.

**Types of dictionaries**

1. **General-purpose dictionaries**
   
   As the name implies, a general-purpose dictionary is one whose contents are not limited to any particular area of specialization, although in compiling it, the lexicographers should always have a particular set of users in mind. Examples of general-purpose dictionaries include Echeruo’s *Igbo-English Dictionary*, Igwe’s *Igbo English Dictionary*, Longman’s *Dictionary of Contemporary English* (all of which were published by Longman), *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (second edition, 20 volumes, 1989).

2. **Scholarly dictionaries**

   Scholarly dictionaries are characterized by “the scientific goal of completeness and rigour in their chosen area.” Examples include the *Oxford English Dictionary* (second edition, 20 volumes, 1989), contains more than 600,000 and the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*. 

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3. **Specialized dictionaries**
These are dictionaries, which deal with *special areas of vocabulary* such as slang, science and technology, law, religion, accounting, etc. Examples include Dubois’s *Dictionnaire de Linguistique et des Sciences du Langage*, Banjo’s *Quadrilingual Glossary of Legislative terms: English, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba*, published by Spectrum, etc.

4. **Children’s dictionaries**
Many lexicographers, especially in advanced countries, are now showing great interest in the writing of dictionaries for children. The driving force behind their efforts is the fact that a good basic education will no doubt provide a solid educational foundation for secondary/higher learning. Bearing the child’s cognitive and linguistic levels in mind, the lexicographer chooses his lemmas very carefully and defines them in the simplest possible way. In addition, he uses colourful illustrations and pictures, which generally appeal to children.

5. **Electronic dictionaries**
Thanks to the information and communication technology (ICT), one can now package any of the above dictionaries in form of computer software. These are machine-readable dictionaries, which could be installed for use on the hard disk of a computer or run from a CD-Rom. This newest technology makes the work of the user easier and faster due to the speed of lookup and cross-referencing as well as the technical capability of copy or cut and paste provided by the computer. One can purchase and download or upgrade quite a good of such software on-line, e.g. *Oxford Talking Dictionary, Encarta World English Dictionary, GSP Multilingual Dictionary*, etc.

**Features of a good dictionary**
Defined above as lexicography, the compilation of a dictionary is an intellectual and time-consuming exercise, demanding carefulness, thoroughness and meticulousness. The lexicographer does not just assemble words arbitrarily. He is guided by relevant linguistic theories. For instance, he may list the words of a language according to how they are related (synonyms) or opposed (antonyms) in meaning. He may also compile a dictionary of words, which relate to a specific topic (e.g. A Dictionary of Literary Terms) or cover a particular period in the history of a given language, (e.g. A Dictionary of Old English).

In principle, a good dictionary should be an authoritative book, providing qualitative and reliable information such as accurate meanings, correct spellings, pronunciations and usages, etc. Hence, a dictionary project is not something that should be done hurriedly in order to avoid producing a work that could mislead the target users, such as schoolchildren, semi-literate adult students, etc. In addition, the production of an authoritative, standard and reliable dictionary calls for teamwork. In other words, experts in different disciplines are required to collaborate by contributing their expertise in compiling, writing and editing the work. Editing, which is particularly a language job, should be handled by language specialists. For instance, “for the mainstream of English, a period dictionary for *Old English* (before 1100) was planned for many decades by a dictionary committee of the Modern Language Association of America (Old English section), but only in the late 1960s did it get under way at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto.” In preparing the dictionary, “a ‘usage panel’ of 104 members, chosen mostly from the conservative ‘literary establishment,’ provided material for a set of ‘usage notes.’” (Encylopaedia Britannica 2005 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom) Another good example is the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, which is regarded as the most scholarly dictionary in the world. Edited in Germany and Austria, “Its main collections were made from 1883 to 1900, when publication began, but by 1988 its publication had reached only the letter P.” (Encylopaedia Britannica 2005 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom)

**Methodology**
Lexicography could be divided into two major types: practical lexicography and theoretical lexicography. Whereas practical lexicography involves the real act of dictionary compilation, writing, and editing, theoretical lexicography is the theoretical discussions on and analyses of the contents and structure of a dictionary. Our focus in this paper was in
the area of practical Igbo lexicography and precisely, the creation of samples of Igbo specialised dictionaries: monolingual, bilingual and multilingual. Then, the first problem we encountered was to source for and access a database of relevant lemmas, which would constitute the wordheads. Fortunately, we had in stock, a corpus of technical neologisms realised from previous research efforts, in the area of computer terminology. The second problem was to determine the structure of the dictionaries. Obviously, the structure of a monolingual dictionary must differ from those of bilingual and multilingual dictionaries. We were able to determine what we wanted by comparing the structures of a number of existing dictionaries. This was followed by an alphabetical listing and definition of the words. Because Igbo language is pronounced the way it is spelt, there was therefore, no need for the phonetic transcription of the lemmas. The Igbo language words and expressions were edited manually because there is, as of now, no known computer software that can edit the Igbo language. However, the Microsoft Language Tools assisted us in editing the English and French spellings and grammatical structures. As these were mere sample compilations, we limited the lemmas to only two grammatical categories: nouns and verbs.

**Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations were used in the dictionary samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammatical categories</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Igbo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noun</td>
<td>(n) noun</td>
<td>(n) nom</td>
<td>(a) aha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
<td>(v) verb</td>
<td>(v) verbe</td>
<td>(n) ngwa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Samples of monolingual, bilingual and multilingual Igbo technical dictionaries**

Below are samples of monolingual, bilingual and multilingual Igbo technical dictionaries focusing on the area of computer science terminology. As a sample creation, each of the dictionaries covers only a few lemmas listed alphabetically, with explanations and carefully formulated sentences to show usage.
I

ibekara: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ibekara ihe èdèrè èdè maọbụ ihe èsèrè èsè - Bekara ahịrị okwu ndịa ma nyado ha ebe ọzọ.
ibị (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ibipụta ihe èdèrè èdè maọbụ ihe èsèrè èsè.
ibido: (a) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ka o bido ruba oru ichekwu: (n) ichekwa ihe edere ede maọbụ ihe èsèrè èsè - Buru uzo chekwaa oru gi nime disiki nro, disiki ike ma o bu sidírom tupu gbanyaàa komputa gi.
ichikara: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ichekwa ihe èdèrè èdè, ihe èsèrè èsè, foto maọbụ ègwụ - Chikara ahịrị okwu ndịa ma nyado ha ebe ọzọ.
idehazie: (n) idezi ihe èdèrè èdè maọbụ ihe èsèrè èsè tupu ebipụta ya - Dehazie edemede ahu tupu i bibuta ya
igospita: (a) igosi ozi di iche ihe nelu enyo nke onyonyo
igwembi: (a) igwe e jì ebiputa oru komputa ruru aru igwencho (a) igwe e jì achọta ihe n'ntaneetị - Gqogqulu bu otu nime igwencho e jì acha ozi n'ntaneetị.
igventi: (a) igwe eji etinye foto, ihe edere ede maọbụ ihe èsèrè èsè n'ime komputa
igwentuhari: (a) ngwanro eji atuhhari okwu site n'otu asusu baa n'asusu ozo n'ime komputa - Tygharia okwu ofesi niile dj n'ahịrị okwu ndịa.
igweokwu: (a) igwe na-eweputa okwu egwu sitere na komputa ihichapu: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ihichapu ihe èdèrè èdè, ihe èsèrè èsè maọbụ ègwụ
ihìwe: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ihìwe nkwuiko maọbụ ngwai n'ime ya
imechi: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ ikwusu oru iméoyịrị (a) imepụta otụ ihe akwụkwo edemede maọbụ esemese uzo abu maọbụ karịa
itinye: (n) iwu na-enye komputa mgbe a chọrọ itinye ozi nime ya

K

komputa: (a) igbe igwe nke nwere ako na uche dikwa mmadu, nke e ji èdè ihe, èsè ihe, èmè ngbako na nwepụ maọbụ aru oru ndi ozo dj iche ihe - Komputa bu igwe elektrikik nke ji eletrikik aru oru.
komputaapata: (a) komputa ntañi dì wara wara nke a rukọtara igbekonauche, enyongosi, oyọrompika na oke ya ọnu - Komputaapata dì nfe nta-µbugha.
korelsé: (a) otu nime ngwanro e ji èsè ihe osise maọbụ ede ihe odide

M

mpiaka (a) otu niime mpiaka dì n'arụ oyọrompika - E ji mpiaka enye komputa iwu ka o rua otu ihe maọbụ nke ozo. Komputaapata n nwere mpiaka iri asa na ise.

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mpjakara nruoro: (a) mpiaka di iche iche e ji enye komputa iwu ka ọ ruka otu ihe maobu nke ọzọ

nanka ekpe: (a) mpiaka di n’akuku aka ekpe ahụ oke

mpjakara nkiri: (a) mpiaka di n’akuku aka nkiri ahụ oke

mpjakara ohere: (a) mpiaka e ji enye ńhër ńe ti okwu abuọ

mpjakara mbanye: (a) mpiaka e ji akwado ihe a chọro ka komputa ńruo.

mpjakara nlaațu: (a) mpiaka e ji echigha n’oru aruburu aru

mpjakara nchicha: (a) mpiaka e ji ehichapu oru aruburu aru

mpjakara nkpochi okwu: (a) mpiaka e ji ede mkpurụ okwubodo maobu mkpurụ okwukịị

mpjakara nfanye: (a) mpiaka e ji ewepu mkpurụ okwu

mpjakara nchikwa: (a) mpiaka e ji achikwa oru na komputa

mpjakara mmahe: (a) mpiaka e ji enyere mpiaka ndi ọzọ aka

mpio: (a) akuku onyonyo na-egosiputa oru a na-aru na komputa Chikpa npio ndi a

nchikọrọ: (a) komputa ole na ole na-aruko oru onu.

N, n

ndinambụ: (n) ọtụ ndi runy komputa ji hazisie akarangwa di iche iche nime ya tupu ndi ọzọ jirị ya ruka oru - Jeghachị na ndinambụ.

ngosiputa: (a) ngosiputa nke oru komputa na-aru n’elu onyonyo ‘nhà: (a) otu ihe ha

nhanhiwe: (a) usoro ihe ehiwere ehiwe

nhiwe: (a) ntnye nke ngwanro maobu ngwaike n’ime komputa nje: (a) ihe nzuzu edere ede nke nwere ihe imebi edemese ma mekwaa ka komputa ghara ịrụ oru nke oma Ewoo, nje atarisierla edeme m.

njikọrọ: (a) kọmputa ole na ole e jikoro onu ka ha nwee ike na-aruko oru onu

njiribáma: (a) akara di iche iche e ji ariwa ihe ama na komputa - Ziga njiribáma ndia n’uzonwu.

njiricha: (a) ahịa maobu akara e ji acho ihe n’ime komputa nkata: (a) ebe a na-awufu ozi na oru di iche iche

O, o

óké: (a) ngwaike fanyegwwe e ji ebuhari tikom site n’otu akuku onyonyo gaa n’akuku ọzọ - E ji óké akpughari tikom n’elu onyonyo.

okwukịị: (a) mkpurụ edemede nta dika ndi a: a b ch d e f g - Gbanwee okwukịị ndia ka ha ghọo okwubodo.

okwubodo: (a) mkpurụ edemede ukwu dika ndi a: A B CH D E F G H I - Gbanwee okwukịị ndia ka ha ghọo okwubodo.

okwugodo: (a) ndi okwu nzuzu e ji ezobe maobu acho ihe n’ime komputa - Buru uzo pinya okwugodo tupu i meheee igbo ezi elektroniki gi.

onyeinyeaka: (a) ngwanro na-enyere onye ji komputa aru oru aki onyendezị: (n) onye na-edei ihe ede buru ede maobu ihe ọsọre ọsọre edepụta ya - Ngwanro a na-aru oru dika onyendezị.

onyonyo: (a) ebe na-egosiputa oru a na-aru na komputa - Ewoo, ogyonyo komputa a akuwaalị!

ozi: (a) ihe obula e dere ede dika mkpurụ okwu, nomba, akarára ihe di iche iche esere ese maobu ola dika egwu - Enwere m ozi ise n’ime igbe ozi elektronicị m.

ozi latọrọrịkị: (a) ozi e si n’Intaneti enweta

ozinkọwa: (a) ozi nke komputa na-eweputa ịji kowaar onye ji ya aru oru ihe
### Sample of a bilingual Igbo technical dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IGBO</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>azundabere: (n) <strong>background</strong>, area behind a text or graphics on a computer screen – <strong>She did her work on a red background.</strong></td>
<td>background: (a) azundabere, obosara nke di n’azu ihe obula edere ede maobu esere ese na komputa. – <strong>&quot;O n’ụrụ ọrụ ya n’azundabere ụhie ụhie.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bido: (v) <strong>start</strong>, command given to a computer when you want to work with it</td>
<td>start: (n) bido, iwu a na-enye komputa mgbe a chóró ka o bido ruba ọrụ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dinhiwe: (n) <strong>Setup Wizard</strong>, a software that specialize in installations of other software or hardware</td>
<td>Setup Wizard: (a) dinhiwe, ngwanro nke na-enyere komputa aka ihwe ngwanro maobu ngwaike ndị ọzọ di iche ihe n’ime komputa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>édemédé: (n) <strong>text</strong> created by use of a computer</td>
<td>text: (a) édemédé ihe ọbụla e ji komputa deel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>édémésè: (n) <strong>document</strong>, a text or graphics created by use of the computer</td>
<td>document: (a) édémésè: ozi ọdịrị ọdị ya na/maobu nke eserere ụsị na komputa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enyongosi: (n) <strong>monitor</strong>, a television-like device that displays texts or pictures (on its screen) created by the computer</td>
<td>monitor: (a) enyongosi, akarangwa dika telifi shọn nke na-egosi n’elu onyonyo ya, ọrụ i na- arụ na komputa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fanyegwue: (n) <strong>pug and play</strong>, a computer hardware which does not require installation before use</td>
<td>pug and play: (a) fanyegwue, ngwaike di iche ihe dika oke na oyorompiaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>idehazi: (v) <strong>to format</strong>, to restructure a text before printing it - <strong>The newspaper was poorly formatted.</strong></td>
<td>format: (n) idehazi, nke a bụ ihwe edere ede olu okwesiri iji tupu n'ebiputa ya - <strong>Edehazighi akwụkwo-akwụ ahụ nke ọma.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Historical Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekara</strong></td>
<td>(v) <strong>Cut</strong>, command given to the computer to remove a text or graphics and paste it elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechawo</strong></td>
<td>Command given to the computer to remove a text or graphics and paste it elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechal</strong></td>
<td>(n) <strong>Search Engine</strong>, a computer programme used for searching information on Internet – <em>Google is one of the search engines.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Search engine</strong>: (a) <em>Ibekechawo</em>, programu komputa e ji achota ozi n’Intaneti - <em>Google bu otu nime Ibekechawo.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechawo</strong></td>
<td>(n) <strong>Key</strong>, one of the buttons on a computer’s keypad – A key is used to give a command to a computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechawo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Key</strong>: (a) <em>Ibekechawo</em>, otu niime <em>Ibekechawo</em> d<em>Ibekechawo</em> - E ji <em>Ibekechawo</em> enye komputa iwu ka o rula otu ihe maobu nke ozo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sample of a multilingual Igbo technical dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Igbo</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Azundabere</strong>: (a) obosara nke di n’azuzu ihe ọbụla edere ede maobu esere ese na komputa. - <em>O ruru oru ya n’azundabere uhue uhie.</em></td>
<td><strong>Background</strong>: (n) area behind a text or graphics on a computer screen – <em>She did her work on a red background.</em></td>
<td><strong>Arrièreplan</strong>: (n) espace derrière un texte ou une graphique sur l’écran d’un ordinateur – <em>Elle a fait son travail sous un arrièreplan rouge.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bido</strong>: (n) iw u na-enye komputa mgbe a chóro ka o bido ruba oru.</td>
<td><strong>Start</strong>: (v) command given to a computer when you want to work with it.</td>
<td><strong>Démarrer</strong>: c’est la commande que l’on donne à l’ordinateur lorsqu’on veut s’en server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechawo</strong>: (a) ngwanro nke na-enyere komputa aka ihiwe ngwanro maobu ngwaike ndi ozo di iche ihe n’ime komputa</td>
<td><strong>Document</strong>: (n) a text or graphics created by use of the computer</td>
<td><strong>Document</strong>: (n) un texte ou une graphique réalisé à l’aide d’un ordinateur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ibekechawo</strong>: (a) akarangwa dika telewiso nke na-egosi n’elu onyonyo ya, oru i na-aru na komputa</td>
<td><strong>Monitor</strong>: (n) a television-like device that displays texts or pictures (on its screen) created by the computer</td>
<td><strong>Moniteur</strong>: (n) un périphérique ressemblant une télévision qui sert à afficher sur son écran le travail exécuté par un ordinateur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Lemmas and their definitions

It is important to note here that only two grammatical categories (parts of speech) were included in the compilations, that is, nouns and verbs, due to the limited scope of the work. Again, the specialized dictionary does not cover all shades of meaning of each word. Rather, it limits itself only to the technical sense and context in which a word has been used. For example, this present dictionary defines the word *az?ndabere / background /arrièreplan* only in the technical sense and context of the space behind a text or graphics on a computer screen (Microsoft Encarta Dictionary 2006). It neither refers to the personal circumstances and experiences that shape somebody's life, nor does it talk about the circumstances leading up to an event that explain its cause (Microsoft Encarta Dictionary 2006) etc. Besides, “there seems to be no one method that is best for defining all words. The lexicographer must use artistry in selecting the ways that will convey a sense accurately and succinctly.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica* 2005 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom.

### Analysis and Discussions


#### bureau: C'est le fond d'écran. On peut y créer les raccourcis des logiciels installés dans l'ordinateur.

#### mouse: (n) input device used for the movement of a cursor on a computer screen without touching the keyboard.

#### souris: (n) c'est un périphérique permettant de déplacer le curseur sur l'écran sans utiliser le clavier.

#### desktop: display on a computer screen. It is on the desktop that icons are displayed.

#### background /arrièreplan: (a) nke a bu onyonyo – O bu n’ọfo?si a ka a na-ehiwe uzonso nke ufodu n’ime ngwanro di ihe ike ndi di n’ime komputa.
Abbreviations
The following abbreviations have been used in the work. Aha (noun) and ngwaa (verb) in Igbo language have been abbreviated as and represented by (a) and (n) respectively. In English and French, (n) and (v) represent nom/noun and verb/verbe respectively.

Tone-marking and diacritics
The tone-marking of the words has been carried out discreetly. In other words, we have tone marked only those words, which are liable to multiple interpretations without the insertion of the relevant diacritics, e.g. óké (mouse/souris) as different from ókè (boundary/frontier) or ókè (share/portion), etc.

Conclusion and recommendations
In conclusion, we have succeeded in this work to show that the compilation of a purely technical dictionary in Igbo language is not only possible, but could also be a stimulating and intellectually rewarding experience for Igbo lexicographers. The time has gone, when Igbo intellectuals should no longer wait for the Thorndikes, the Williamsons, the Johnsons, the Websters, etc. to come and create Igbo dictionaries for us to use. Therefore, may I use this medium to emit a clarion call to all Igbo language stakeholders, especially our linguists, to rise up to the challenge of producing all types of Igbo dictionaries. If the English, French, Germans, Russians, etc. who started writing and publishing dictionaries in their respective languages many centuries ago are still thriving in researching and publishing more and in re-editing and improving on existing ones, what then are our intellectuals doing? The time to start is now! Accordingly, I recommend seriously teamwork in the production of authoritative, credible, standard and reliable dictionaries. More importantly, government should provide funds for research in this domain.

Works Cited
Oxford Talking Dictionary on CD.