

Igbo Technical Dictionary Compilation: A Stimulating Experience

Enoch Ajunwa

Department of Modern European Languages
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
Anambra State, Nigeria

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*.

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.'*" (Encyclopaedia 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.*" (Encyclopaedia 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.

| Grammatical categories | English | French | Igbo |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Noun | (n) noun | (n) nom | (a) aha |
| Verb | (v) verb | (v) verbe | (n) ngwa |

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.

1. Sample of a monolingual Igbo technical dictionary

| |
|--|
| A, a |
| azundabere: (a) obosara nke dị n'azụ ihe ọbụla edere ede maọbụ esere ese na kọmputa - <i>Nneka tinyere ọrụ ya na azundabere uhieuhie.</i> |
| B, b |
| bido: (a) ebe a na-apịkọm n'elu onyonyo mgbe a chọrọ ịbanye n'ime kọmputa maọbụ ịgbanyu ya agbanyu - <i>Pịa kọm n'elu bido mgbe ị chọrọ ịgbanyu kọmputa gị.</i> |
| D, d |
| dinhiwe: (n) ngwanro nke na-enyere kọmputa aka ihiwe ngwanro maọbụ ngwaikwe ndị ọzọ dị iche iche n'ime ya : <i>E ji dinhiwe etinye ngwanro dị iche iche nime kọmputa.</i> dinkà: (a) onye ihe doro anya nke ọma - <i>Ọ bụ dinkà nihe banyere ésémésé.</i> |
| E, e |
| ebémkparịta: (a) ébé kọmputa jì aka ya ewepụta ozi ọbụla ọ chọrọ ịzị onye jì ya arụ ọrụ ebeorụ: (a) ebe ana-arụ ọrụ nke dị niru onyonyo édémédé: (a) ihe ọbụla e jì kọmputa dee édémésé: (a) ozi édèrè édé ya na/maọbụ nke esèrè èsè enyongosi: (a) ngwaikwe dika télévishọn nke na-egosi ọrụ ị na-arụ na kọmputa ésémésé: (a) ihe ọbụla e jì kọmputa see |
| F, f |
| fanyegwue: (a) ngwaikwe dị iche iche dika oke na ọyọrọmpịaka nke kọmputa pụrụ ịjị ruo ọrụ na-ebughị ụzọ hiwe ha ehiwe |
| G, g |
| gbanyugbanye (n): iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe ọbụla ị chọrọ ịgbanyu ma gbanye kwa ya ozigbo - <i>Gbanyugbanye kọmputa ahụ mgbe ị tinyesịrị ngwanro ndja nime ya.</i> |

I, I

ibekara: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ibekara ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè - *Bekara ahijr okwu ndja ma nyado ha ebe ozo.*

ibi (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ibiputa ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè

ibido: (a) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka o bido ruha oru

ichekwa: (n) ichekwa ihe edere ede maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè - *Buru uzọ chekwaa oru gi nime disiki nro, disiki ike ma o bu sidirom tupu i gbanyua komputa gi.*

ichikara: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ichkara ihe édèrè édé, ihe ésèré ésè, foto maọbụ égwú - *Chikara ahijr okwu ndja ma nyado ha ebe ozo.*

idehazie: (n) idezi ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè tupu ebiputa ya - *Dehazie edemede ahụ tupu i biputa ya*

igosipta: (a) igosi ozi di iche iche nelu enyo nke onyonyo

igwembi: (a) igwe e ji ebiputa oru kọmputa ruru aru

igwenchọ (a) igwe e ji achota ihe n'Intaneeti - *Gogulu bu otu nime igwenchọ e ji achọa ozi n' Intaneeti.*

igwentife: (a) igwe eji etinye foto, ihe edere ede maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè n'ime kọmputa

igwentughari: (a) ngwanro e ji atughari okwu site n'otu asusu baa n'asusu ozo n'ime kọmputa - *Tugharia okwu ofesi niile di n'ahijr okwu ndja.*

igweokwu: (a) igwe na-eweputa okwu egwu sitere na kọmputa

ihichapụ: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ihichapụ ihe édèrè édé, ihe ésèré ésè maọbụ égwú

ihiwe: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ itinye ngwanro maọbụ ngwaike n'ime ya

imechi: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ikwusi oru

imèoyiri (a) imeputa otu ihu akwukwo edemede maọbụ esemese uzọ abụọ maọbụ karija

itinye: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ itinye ozi nime ya

iwu: (a) ihe i gwara kọmputa ka o meere gi *O buru na inye kọmputa gi iwu ziri ezi, o garu ihe obula i choro ka o ruo.*

I, i

ihazi: (n) *I ghaghj ihazi kọmputa ohu obula tupu I jiri ya ruha oru.*

ikagbu: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka o hichapụ ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè

ikwunye: (n) nke a bu ikwunye udo igwe eletiriki

ikwusi: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka okwusi iru oru

Intaneeti: (a) usoro nzikorita ozi nke jikoro ndi niile nwere kọmputa na uwa niile gbaa gburu gburu - *I konyela n'Intaneeti?*

inyado: (n) iburu ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèré ésè si n'otu ebe jee nyado ya ebe ozo - *Bekara ahijr okwu ndja ma nyado ha ebe ozo.*

ipikim: (n) i ji mkpuru aka pia n'elu mpiaka

itunyụ: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka o tunyua ihe, dika ngwaro maọbụ ngwaike

itute: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka o tuntee ihe, dika ngwaro maọbụ ngwaike

K, k

kọmputa: (a) igbe igwe nke nwere ako na uche dika mmadu, nke e ji ede ihe, esè ihe, emè ngbakọ na nwepu maọbụ aru oru ndi ozo di iche iche - *Komputa bu igwe eletroniki nke ji eletiriki aru oru.*

kọmputaapata: (a) kọmputa ntakiri di wara wara nke a ruotara igbeakonache, enyongosi, oyorompiaka na oke ya onu - *Komputaapata di nfe na-mbugha.*

kọrelsèé: (a) otu nime ngwanro e ji esè ihe osise maọbụ ede ihe odide

M, m

mpiaka (a) otu niime mpiaka di n'aru oyorompiaka - *E ji mpiaka enye kọmputa iwu ka o rua otu ihe maobu nke ozo. Komputaapata m nwere mpiaka iri asa na ise.*

mpịaka nruoro: (a) mpịaka dị iche iche e ji enye kọmputa iwu ka ọ rịa otu ihe maọbụ nke ọzọ
 mpịaka aka ekpe: (a) mpịaka dị n'akụkụ aka ekpe ahụ oke
 mpịaka aka nri: (a) mpịaka dị n'akụkụ aka nri ahụ oke
 mpịaka ohere: (a) mpịaka e ji enye ohéré n'etiti okwu abụọ
 mpịaka mbanye: (a) mpịaka e ji akwado ihe a choro ka kọmputa rụọ.
 mpịaka nlaazū: (a) mpịaka e ji echigha n'oru aruburu aru
 mpịaka nchicha: (a) mpịaka e ji ehichapụ oru aruburu aru
 mpịaka nkpochi okwu: (a) mpịaka e ji ede mkpuru okwubodo maobu mkpuru okwukiri
 mpịaka nfanye: (a) mpịaka e ji ewepu mkpuru okwu
 mpịaka nchikwa: (a) mpịaka e ji achikwa oru na kọmputa
 mpịaka mmahe: (a) mpịaka e ji enyere mpịaka ndi ọzọ aka
 mpio: (a) akukụ onyonyo na-egosiputa oru a na-arụ na kọmputa
Chikpaa mpio ndi a
 nchikooru: (a) kọmputa ole na ole na-aruko oru onu.

N, n

ndinambu: (n) otu ndi ruru kọmputa ji hazisie akaranga di iche iche nime ya tupu ndi ọzọ jiri ya ruba oru - *Jeghachi na ndinambu.*
 ngosiputa: (a) ngosiputa nke oru kọmputa na-arụ n'elu onyonyo
 'nhà: (a) otu ihe ha
 nhanhiwe: (a) usoro ihe ehiwere ehiwe
 nhiwe: (a) ntinye nke ngwanro maobu ngwaike n'ime kọmputa
 nje: (a) ihe nzuzo edere ede nke nwere ike imebi edemese ma mekwaa ka kọmputa ghara iru oru nke oma *Ewoo, nje atarisiela edemese m.*
 nijkoru: (a) k?mputa ole na ole e jikoro onu ka ha nwee ike na-aruko oru onu
 nijribama: (a) akara di iche iche e ji ariba ihe ama na kọmputa - *Ziga nijribama ndia n'uzonso.*
 nijrichota: (a) ahà maobu akara e ji achota ozi n'ime kọmputa
 nkata: (a) ebe a na-awufu ozi na oru di iche iche

nkpururedemedé: (a) udidi nkpururedemedé di iche iche - *nkpururedemedé e ji ruo oru a bu nke anakpo Niu Taimsu Romanj nnenjiko.* (a) ebe jikoro akaranga di iche iche di niime kọmputa - *Ngwaike kachasi mkpa na kọmputa bu nnenjiko.*
 nnya: (a) akaranga nkwado di n'ime kọmputa nke nwere ike igu edemesé
 nnyonchoputa: (a) usoro e ji enyocha kọmputa ka ewee choputa nsogbu obula o nwere - *Ehiwela m ngwanro na-enychaputa nsogbu obula kọmputa nwere.*
 nnyoko: (a) igwe e ji esè onyoko ihe maobu onye otu ebe maobu na-emeghari ahụ

O, o

oke: (a) ngwaike fanyegwue e ji ebughari tikom site n'otu akukụ onyonyo gaa n'akukụ ọzọ - *E ji oke akpughari tikom n'elu onyonyo.*
 okwukiri: (a) nkpuru edemede nta dika ndi a: *a b ch d e f g - Gbanwee okwukiri ndia ka ha ghoo okwubodo.*
 okwubodo: (a) nkpuru edemede ukwu dika ndi a: *AB CH D E F G H I - Gbanwee okwukiri ndia ka ha ghoo okwubodo.*
 okwuigodo: (n) okwu nzuzo e ji ezobe maobu achota ozi n'ime kọmputa - *Buru uzọ pinye okwuigodo tupu i mehee igbeozii eletroniki gi.*
 onyeinyeaka: (a) ngwanro na-enyere onye ji kọmputa aru oru aka onyendezi: (n) onye na-edezi ihe ede buru ede maobu ihe esere esere tupu ebiputa ya - *Ngwanro a na-aru oru dika onyendezi.*
 onyonyo: (a) ebe na-egosiputa oru a na-aru na kọmputa - *Ewoo, oyonyo kọmputa a akwaaala!*
 ozi : (a) ihe obula e dere ede dika nkpuru okwu, nomba, akara na ihe di iche iche esere ese maobu olu dika egwu - *Enwere m ozi ise n'ime igbe ozi eletroniki m.*
 ozi latroniki: (a) ozi e si n'Intaneti enweta
 ozinkowa: (a) ozi nke kọmputa na-eweputa iji kowara onye ji ya aru oru ihe

| |
|---|
| <p>Ọ, ọ</p> <p>ọbọ: (a) ebe ana-etinye ozi dị iche iche : <i>Kedu ọbọ édémedé ahụ dị nime ya?</i></p> <p>ọkungosi:(a) ọkụ na-egosi otu ihe maọbụ nke ọzọ</p> <p>oyorompiaka: (a) ebe jikoro mpiaka niile onu e ji aru oru na komputa - <i>Oyorompiaka bu ngwaike fanyegwue.</i></p> |
| <p>T, t</p> <p>tikom: (a) obere akara na-atu ume ma na-egosiputakwa ebe a ga-apinye mkpuru edemede n'elu onyonyo - <i>E ji oke akpughari tikom n'elu onyonyo.</i></p> |
| <p>U, u</p> <p>umiche: (a) akuku umi komputa nke na-enyere ya aka icheta na ihnta ihe ya na na iru oru di iche iche</p> <p>uzonso: (a) iziga njiribaama di iche iche n'ihu onyonyo - <i>Ziga njiribaama ndia n'uzonso.</i></p> |
| <p>W, w</p> <p>weebu: (a) usoro njikoru nke komputa niile di n'uwa gbaa gburugburu, nke mere na a na-esi n'otu komputa nweta ozi site n'aka komputa ozo. <i>Biko, choro anyi bja n'ihu oru weebu anyi na http://www.bigbiz.org</i></p> |

2. Sample of a bilingual Igbo technical dictionary

| IGBO – ENGLISH | ENGLISH – IGBO |
|---|---|
| <p>azundabere: (n) background, area behind a text or graphics on a computer screen – <i>She did her work on a red background.</i></p> | <p>background: (a) <i>azundabere</i>, obosara nke di n'azu ihe obula edere ede maobu esere ese na komputa. - <i>O ruru oru ya n'azundabere uhie uhie.</i></p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>bido: (v) start, command given to a computer when you want to work with it</p> | <p>start: (n) <i>bido</i>, iwu a na-enye komputa mgbe a choro ka o bido raba oru</p> |
| <p>dinhiwe: (n) Setup Wizard, a software that specialize in installations of other software or hardware</p> | <p>Setup Wizard: (a) <i>dinhiwe</i>, ngwanro nke na-enyere komputa aka ihiwe ngwanro maobu ngwaike ndi ozo di iche iche n'ime komputa</p> |
| <p>édémédé: (n) text created by use of a computer</p> | <p>text: (a) <i>édémédé</i> ihe obula e ji komputa dee</p> |
| <p>édémésè: (n) document, a text or graphics created by use of the computer</p> | <p>document : (a) <i>édémésè</i>: ozi edere ede ya na/maobu nke esere esere na komputa</p> |
| <p>enyongosi: (n) monitor, a television-like device that displays texts or pictures (on its screen) created by the computer</p> | <p>monitor: (a) <i>enyongosi</i>, akarangwa dika televishon nke na-egosi n'elu onyonyo ya, oru i na- aru na komputa</p> |
| <p>ésémésé: (n) graphics, drawing, diagrammes or pictures created by use of the computer</p> | <p>graphics: (a) <i>ésémésé</i>: ihe e ji komputa see</p> |
| <p>fanyegwue: (n) pug and play, a computer hardware which does not require installation before use</p> | <p>pug and play: (a) <i>fanyegwue</i>, ngwaike di iche iche dika oke na oyorompiaka</p> |
| <p>idehazi: (v) to format, to restructure a text before printing it - <i>The newspaper was poorly formatted.</i></p> | <p>format: (n) <i>idehazi</i>, nke a bu ihazi ihe edere ede otu okwesiri idi tupu e biputa ya - <i>Edehazighi akwukwo-akuko ahụ nke oma.</i></p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| ibekara: (v) cut , command given to the computer to remove a text or graphics and paste it elsewhere | cut: (n) <i>ibekara</i> , iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ iwepu ihe édèrè édé maọbụ ihe ésèrè ésé ma nyado ya ebe ọzọ |
| igwenchọ (n) search engine , a computer programme used for searching information on Internet – <i>Google is one of the search engines.</i> | search engine: (a) <i>igwenchọ</i> , progrmu kọmputa e ji achọta ozi n'Intaneetị - <i>Gọogulu bụ otu nime igwenchọ.</i> |
| mpịaka (n) key , one of the buttons on a computer's keypad – A key is used to give a command to a computer. | key (a) <i>mpịaka</i> , otu niime mpịaka dị ọyọrompịaka - E ji mpịaka enye kọmputa iwu ka ọ rụa otu ihe maọbụ nke ọzọ. |

3. Sample of a multilingual Igbo technical dictionary

| IGBO | ENGLISH | FRENCH |
|---|--|--|
| azundabere: (a) obosara nke dị n'azụ ihe ọbụla edere ede maọbụ esere ese na kọmputa. - <i>Ọ rụrụ ọrụ ya n'azundabere uhie uhie.</i> | background : (n) area behind a text or graphics on a computer screen – <i>She did her work on a red background.</i> | arrièreplan : (n) espace derrière un texte ou une graphique sur l'écran d'un ordinateur – <i>Elle a fait son travail sous un arrièreplan rouge.</i> |
| bido: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chọrọ ka ọ bido rụba ọrụ. | start: (v) command given to a computer when you want to work with it. | démarrer : c'est la commande que l'on donne à l'ordinateur lorsqu'on veut s'en server. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| idehazie: (n) nke a bụ ihazi ihe edere ede otu okwesiri idị tupu e biputa ya - <i>E d e h a z i g h i akwukwo-akuko ahụ nke oma.</i> | format: (v) to restructure a text well before printing it - <i>The newspaper was poorly formatted.</i> | Formatter : c'est le fait de restructurer un texte comme il faut avant de l'imprimer – <i>On a très mal formaté le journal.</i> |
| dinhiwe: (a) ngwanro nke na-enyere kọmputa aka ihiwe ngwanro maọbụ ngwaike ndị ọzọ dị iche iche n'ime kọmputa | Setup Wizard: (n) a software that specialize in installations of other software or hardware | Setup Wizard : (n) un logiciel qui sert à installer des autres logiciels et des matériels à l'ordinateur |
| édémédé: (a) ihe ọbụla e ji kọmputa dee | text: (n) text created by use of a computer | texte : (n) texte créé à l'aide d'un ordinateur |
| édémésè: (a) ozi édèrè édé ya na/ maọbụ nke esèrè èsè na kọmputa | document: (n) a text or graphics created by use of the computer | document: (n) un texte ou une graphique realize à l'aide d'un ordinateur |
| enyongosi: (a) akarangwa dika telévisyon nke na-egosi n'elu onyonyo ya, ọrụ i na- arụ na kọmputa | monitor: (n) a television-like device that displays texts or pictures (on its screen) created by the computer | moniteur: (n) un périphérique ressemblant une télévision qui sert à afficher sur son écran le travail exécuté par un ordinateur |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| ésémésé: (a) ihe e ji kọmputa see | graphics: (n) drawings, diagrammes or pictures created by use of the computer | graphiques: dessins et images réalisé à l'aide d'un ordinateur |
| fanyegwue: (a) ngwaike dijiche ichedjika oke na oyorompiaka | pug and play: (n) a computer hardware which does not require installation before use | plug and play: matériel périphérique que sert l'ordinateur sans l'installation |
| ibekara: (n) iwu a na-enye kọmputa mgbe a chorọ iwepu ihe éderè édé maobu ihe ésèré ésè ma nyado ya ebe ozo | cut: (v) command given to the computer to remove a text or graphics and paste it elsewhere | couper: une commande donnée à l'ordinateur lorsqu'on veut enlever un document pour en coller ailleurs |
| igwencho: (a) programu kọmputa e ji achota ozi n'Intaneeti - <i>Googulu bu otu nime igwencho.</i> | search engine : (n) a computer programme used for searching information on Internet – <i>Google is one of the search engines.</i> | moteur de recherché: (n) c'est un logiciel qui sert à rechercher des information sur Internet |
| mpiaka: (a) otu niime mpiaka dij n'aru oyorompiaka - <i>E ji mpiaka enye kọmputa iwu ka o rya otu ihe maobu nke ozo</i> | key: (n) one of the buttons on a computer's keyboard – <i>A key is used to give a command to a computer.</i> | touché: (n) un des boutons sur le clavier – <i>Une touche se sert à donner des commandes à un ordinateur.</i> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| ofosj: nke a bu iru onyonyo – <i>O bu n'ofosj a ka a na-ehiwe uzonso nke ufodu n'ime ngwanro dijiche ichendj n'ime kọmputa.</i> | desktop: display on a computer screen – <i>It is on the desktop that icons are displayed.</i> | bureau: C'est le fond d'écran - <i>On peut y créer les raccourcis des logiciels installés dans l'ordinateur.</i> |
| oke: (a) nke a bu ngwa ngbakwanye e ji akpughari tikom si n'otu akuku onyonyo gaa n'akuku ozo n'emetughij oyorompiaka aka. | 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. |

Analysis and Discussions

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.

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. *òké* (mouse/souris) as different from *ókè* (boundary/frontier) or *òkè* (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

Agwu, O. 2001. "Foreword" to Eke, J. G. *Igbo - English Dictionary*. Enugu: New Generation Books.
Banjo, A. (ed.) 1991. *Quadrilingual Glossary of Legislative terms: English,*

Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba. Abuja: Spectrum Books/NERDC.
Bready, Richard S. 2005 "Dictionary" in *Microsoft Encarta Encyclopaedia*. 2006 [CD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2005.
Dubois et al, *Dictionnaire du Français Contemporain*. Paris: Larousse.
Echeruo, M. J. C. 2001. *Igbo - English Dictionary*. Ikeja: Longman.
Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2005. Deluxe Edition CD-Rom
Pearson Education. 2000. *Longman Interactive English Dictionary*. CD: Pearson Education Ltd.
Igwe, G. E. 1999. *Igbo - English Dictionary*. Ibadan: University Press Plc.
Microsoft Encarta Encyclopaedia, 2006 [CD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation.
Oxford Talking Dictionary on CD.