

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

Teachers' Voice



Training Events

In the year 2024, ELTAN held many training events for teachers and teacher educators in different parts of the country (Port Harcourt, Kebbi, Owerri, Bauchi, Yenegoa, Abuja, Lagos, Makurdi, Asaba, and Minna) in addition to our annual conference held at the Federal University of Lafia, Nassarawa State.

Inauguration of New Chapters

Summarised in this newsletter are several of the training sessions with pictures for 2024.

We have introduced some new features in this edition: poems, short stories, *feedback from my classroom*, and other exciting materials for you.

ELTAN HALL OF FAME

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DELTA STATE

ENGLISH CONNECTS EVENT HELD IN ASABA, DELTA STATE ON MARCH 9, 2024

By: **Maureen Ororho**

The Delta State chapter of ELTAN in collaboration with ELTAN National held a workshop in Asaba, the state capital, on Saturday, 9th March 2024 and about fifty (50) teachers were trained on how to access teaching resources on the British Council website.

State WhatsApp Group Platform: A WhatsApp group was created on 9th February, 2024, with two hundred and sixty seven (267) active members. A data bank was established where these members were recorded according to their Local Government Areas. The teachers were encouraged to register with ELTAN National.



ELTAN Delta State Chapter Group Picture

ADVOCACY TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The chapter has carried out advocacy visits to the Honourable Commissioners for Basic Education and Secondary Education.

DELTA STATE

ENGLISH CONNECTS EVENT HELD IN ASABA, DELTA STATE ON MARCH 9, 2024



Picture of Delta Eltan Executive Members, with the National President at the inauguration.

ELTAN 13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The State was represented and participated in the 13th Annual National Conference that was held at Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State from 2nd - 6th September, 2024.



MAUREEN EKPELEZE ORORHO

is a seasoned lecturer with two decades in English Language and Communication Education. She holds a Master's degree in English Language from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and is pursuing a Ph.D. She has authored numerous publications. She currently serves as Principal Lecturer at FCE(T) Asaba.

KEBBI STATE

ENGLISH CONNECTS EVENT HELD IN BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE ON NOVEMBER 9, 2024

By: **Mustapha A. Tafarki**



Group picture

The Kebbi State ELTAN Workshop, themed "Integrating ICT in English Language Teaching," was a resounding success. Organized by the Kebbi State Chapter of ELTAN and funded by ELTAN National in partnership with the British Council, Nigeria. The workshop aimed to enhance English Language Teaching (ELT) professionals' capacity to design and deliver effective, inclusive, and engaging language instruction.

The workshop brought together 73 educators (34 male, 39 female) from Kebbi State, Nigeria, and featured a participatory and interactive approach.

The workshop brought together expert presenters, interactive sessions, collaborative group work, hands-on activities, plenary sessions, mentoring, and coaching; all aimed at achieving the workshop's objectives.

The primary objectives of the workshop were to enhance educators' expertise in ELT, foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, promote innovative teaching practices, address emerging trends and challenges in ELT, and empower educators to create inclusive, engaging learning environments.

KEBBI STATE

ENGLISH CONNECTS EVENT HELD IN KEBBI STATE ON NOVEMBER 9, 2024



The Kebbi ELTAN Workshop was a success, achieving its objectives and exceeding expectations. The workshop's impact extends beyond participants, strengthening the ELT community in Kebbi and beyond .

Despite the workshop's successes, several challenges were encountered, including limited technological infrastructure, insufficient duration for comprehensive exploration, diverse levels of ELT expertise and technological proficiency, logistical challenges, and evaluating long-term impact. To address these challenges, recommendations include integrating student-centered and inclusive approaches in ELT programs, providing training on technology integration and digital literacy, fostering collaboration and networking among ELT professionals, contextualizing training to address specific ELT challenges, and encouraging reflective practice and continuous professional development.

Future directions include expanding the workshop scope to reach more ELT professionals, integrating research and innovation in ELT practices, strengthening partnerships with educational institutions and stakeholders, developing sustainable funding models, and establishing Kebbi ELTAN as a leading ELT hub.



Mustafa A. Tarfaki

is an accomplished education professional specializing in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching. He holds a Ph.D. and works as a teacher, IELTS examiner, and researcher with notable academic publications.

He is the coordinator, ELTAN Kebbi State

Poems

Dried Tears by Ritz Flo

Dried tears on weary cheeks remain,
Memories of sorrow, love and pain.
Time's gentle touch, a healing breeze,
Soothes heartache's sting, brings calm
release.

In empty eyes, a story's told,
Of laughter lost, and love grown old.
The heart, once broken, now mends,
And dried tears' whispers, love transcends.

Through trials, strength is forged anew,
And wisdom's lessons, we hold true.
In every fall, a lesson is gained,
And resilience, like dawn, sustained.

And when tears fall, no longer dry,
Healing's waters, soul and eye.
For in each drop, a story is told,
Of love's redemption, young and old.



WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME, WHAT DO YOU SEE ?

I am the reflection of beauty
A masterpiece of God's majesty
I am full of knowledge
I can multitask, I acknowledge!

It's in my nature
I can nurture,
My intuition is top notch
An endowment from my creator; rich.

I refuse to be the underrated,
I am crafted to be uplifted
above my socioeconomic background,
I aspire above my background.

A girl that brings hope to her nation,
a girl full of intellectual inclination,
What do you see
when you look at me?

I am impactful through my engagements;
in art, science , technology and
entrepreneurial skills
When you look at me
What do you see?

By Mrs. Iyabo Adebimpe Akintola



Poems

Strength in Silence

by Divramredje Lawrence Efeturi

The oak stands tall, its branches wide,
Offering rest to those who bide.
Its leaves sway gently in the air,
Calming minds, easing despair.

Tired souls find a place to mend,
In the oak's strength, they find a friend.

The harsh light of day slowly fades,
As the oak's presence comforts and persuades.

Its roots run deep, a silent pledge,
Giving strength without a hedge.
No need for words, no songs of praise,
Yet its presence soothes in countless ways.

Through every storm and trial faced,
The oak remains, its stance embraced.
It seeks no glory, claims no crown,
Yet in its shade, we all bow down.

The oak provides a quiet space,
Where anyone can find their place.
Not for fame, nor for a show,
But simply to let kindness grow.

Can Scars Heal?

I've often wondered aloud,
In another world,
Would life come soft, like morning rain?
Would it spare the battles I fight each day—
This dance with scars that leave their stain?

To rise, to fight, to grasp the sun,
To win where shadows block the way—
It sounds like valour, hard-won fun,
But every triumph makes you pay.

Scars, they say, are signs of healing,
But they whisper truths unkind.
Marks of wounds, of old revealing,
Of days when life was less refined.

Imperfection?
Ah, it earns you a place,
Proof your skin stood in the storm.
But cracks once made,
No time can erase,
And even thunder stirs alarm.

The world will leave its hand on you,
Its grip that lingers, never done.
Its voice will echo, cold and true:
"But will these battles ever be done?"

Ozegide Chukwuemeka Godwin



ELTAN FCT 2024 Annual Workshop

Written by Rasheedat Sadiq

The FCT Chapter of ELTAN held an epochal professional development event in partnership with the British Council, Nigeria on the 7th December 2024 at Valencia hotel, Wuse II, with the theme 'Transforming Teaching, Enhancing Learning: Towards Technology-driven Education'.

We had seasoned speakers from various parts of the country enthral the participants with various practical and thought-provoking ideas related to technology. Some participants arrived as early as half past eight and like the VIPs they are, were given a red-carpet reception before proceeding for registration. The event commenced at about 10 am, with a welcome by the Chapter Secretary, Mr. Ezekeil Ashaolu. Next, there was an opening address by the head of the British Council English Programs Development Department, Daniel Fwanshishak, who extolled the virtues of professional development and importance of embracing technology as 21st century teachers.



Participants at the event



The Keynote Speaker, Prof. Egbe



The Keynote address titled "Beyond Buttonification: Humanizing technologies, enhancing teaching and learning through digital pedagogy" delivered by Professor Gabriel Egbe, looked deeply into the use of technology in teaching and the need to humanise technology use for education to achieve its real essence.

This was followed by four other workshops. Chime Light, a tech specialist based in Enugu State demystified the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and called on teachers to embrace the technology to ease their work and benefit their learners. She shared the key to successful AI prompting and walked us through the use of various generative AI platforms. Right after the impactful session was a content-rich presentation by the renowned educator Uzoma Okoro all the way from Lagos State. She introduced numerous software applications, ranging from the Microsoft Office Suite to cloud-based ones such as Google documents, Microsoft Teams and Onedrive, which she utilised with her undergraduate students and gave practical insights into the running of her tech-driven classes.

ELTAN FCT 2024 Annual Workshop



After that, we had a scrumptious breakfast which was followed by a session delivered by the engaging programme manager from the British Council, Albert Ameh, on the numerous benefits of continuous professional development opportunities available via their platforms and courses. The second half of the programme was exciting with hands-on workshops. The fourth session of the day was anchored by a first-class individual in the person of Sunday Patrick, who spoke on the theme and showed participants how to utilise a platform as common as WhatsApp to its full advantage in supporting learning. He also gave some useful tips on getting the best out of ChatGPT.

The last workshop of the day featured ways of "Utilising Technology to Promote Intercultural Understanding in the English Language Classroom". This was facilitated by Rasheedat Sadiq, an Abuja based educator, who engaged participants by clarifying the importance of intercultural understanding and sharing technological tools classified into multi-media tools, virtual reality tools, gamification tools and cultural exchange tools. Teachers had loads of fun participating in the Kahoot game and being immersed in a trip via Google arts and culture.

The event came to an end around 4 pm with a bountiful lunch but learning continued on a dedicated WhatsApp platform as members were divided into focus groups to collaborate, brainstorm and utilise technology to produce documents on five related topics viz, Integrating Technology in English Language Teaching, Overcoming Technological Barriers, Effective Lesson Planning and Delivery, Assessment and Feedback in the Digital Age and Teacher Professional Development and Support.

3rd Annual Workshop: October 25, 2024.

The 3rd Annual Workshop of ELTAN Rivers State Chapter was held on October 25, 2024, at Emerald Hotel, Port Harcourt. Themed "Transforming Teaching, Enhancing Learning: Towards Technology-Driven Education," the workshop recorded an impressive attendance of 257 participants (197 females, 60 males) from across Rivers State. Participants arrived as early as 7:00 AM for the 8:00 AM registration, marking the beginning of an impactful eight-hour event.

Expert Presentations

The workshop featured insightful presentations by distinguished professionals:

The keynote by Prof. Ken-Maduako explored how technology integration is revolutionising traditional teaching methods to create more engaging and effective learning experiences.

Planning Lessons and Courses for Teachers – Prof. Hellen Sokari A-Okujagu. Prof. A-Okujagu's session focused on systematic approaches to lesson planning and course design that align learning objectives with student needs and curriculum requirements.

Integrating Learning Technologies and Effective Pedagogy – Dr. Scholastica Amadi.

Dr. Amadi's presentation demonstrated how to seamlessly blend educational technologies with proven teaching methods to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.



Panelists discussing Remote Learning



Participants

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools in Education – Prof. Trinya's talk, though audio, highlighted the transformative potential of AI tools and digital resources in modernising classroom instruction and personalising student learning experiences. His presentation, which has been shared on the Chapters Telegram group demonstrated how technology can be used to one's advantage even when physically absent.

3rd Annual Workshop

Panel Discussion

A major highlight was the panel discussion on "Supporting Remote Learning/Learning without Borders." It brought together university and polytechnic lecturers, public and private secondary school teachers, and school administrators to explore the challenges and opportunities of remote learning. It focused on using WhatsApp, Teams, Google classroom, and other social media platforms for learning.

Key Attendees and Contributions

Despite travel challenges, Mr. Fwanshishak Daniel, British Council Head of Programmes, attended the event and commended ELTAN's significant organizational progress over the past two years.

ELTAN Rivers State Chapter expresses appreciation to the following members of the support team: Dr. Victoria Solomon, Dr. Victoria Macaulay, Dr. Asikiya Amakiri, Dr. Ere Morrison, Mrs. Mabel Nyengiwari Ipalibo-Osokolo, Mrs. Tina Obediah (Programme Anchor), Mr. Boma Igani and Mr. Steven Akirika (Technical Support). ELTAN Rivers State Chapter also expresses profound gratitude to all the resource persons/facilitators, participants and the very supportive Rivers State Senior Secondary Schools Board (RSSSB), and the Rivers State Universal Basic Education Board (RSUBEB), the Director Teacher Development Department (TDD UBE) whose contributions ensured the workshop's overall success.

Outcomes And Impact

The workshop showcased effective teamwork and professional collaboration, setting a high standard for future educational initiatives in Rivers State.

The integration of learning technologies into English Language Teaching (ELT) will revolutionise traditional methods, making education more interactive, engaging, and personalized. Tools like multimedia resources, language apps, and virtual platforms enhance practical language use, foster inclusivity, and provide learners with access to diverse, authentic resources for real-life communication.



Dr Victoria Solomon

is an experienced ELT practitioner with over a decade experience. She is an active member of ELTAN Rivers chapter and freelances with the Ignatius Ajuru University, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt.



Inauguration of Bayelsa State ELTAN

On December 12th, 2024, the Bayelsa State Chapter of the English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) hosted its inaugural 'English Connects' professional development workshop. The event, held at the NUJ Conference Hall in Ekeki, Yenagoa, was sponsored by the British Council and focused on the theme 'Taking Responsibility for Professional Development.'

The ELTAN President, Dr Kennedy Edegbe kicked off the workshop with the inauguration of the new Chapter Executives. This is an important milestone for ELTAN, as the Bayelsa State Chapter is poised to play a vital role in supporting English language teachers in the region.

The main workshop sessions covered a range of topics, including:

1. A talk on the *English Connects* programme by the ELTAN President
2. ICT in ELT
3. Innovation and Inclusion in ELT: Building better classrooms
4. Beyond Basics: Advancing ELT Practice





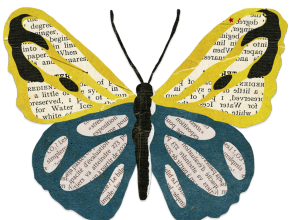
Inauguration of Bayelsa State ELTAN

The session on incorporating ICT into English Language Teaching (ELT), opened with the thought-provoking quote: "The school's success depends on the caliber of its teaching staff", a sentiment echoed by Adeniyi & Ogunyemi.

They called for 'empowering teachers to fulfill their roles as transformative intellectuals and community leaders.'

By equipping teachers with the skills and tools to leverage technology in the classroom, this workshop aimed to empower attendees to become leaders in driving educational transformation. As noted by the 2023 World Teachers' Day theme, 'the teachers we need for the education we want' are those who can build resilient and equitable systems that serve the public good.

This is an inspiring start for the Bayelsa State ELTAN Chapter. The ELTAN President (Dr Kennedy Edegbe) and the Treasurer (Salome Ikokoyo) attended this Inaugural workshop.



Storytime

Aduku, The Untrustworthy Friend by Askiya D. Amakiri

Once upon a time, in a small village, there were two friends, Pianu and Aduku. Pianu was known for her sincerity and selflessness, while Aduku was cunning and deceitful.

Whenever Pianu discovered new opportunities, she would eagerly share them with Aduku, hoping they could benefit together. However, Aduku would often hide information from Pianu, seeking to gain an advantage over her.

One day, news of a scholarship opportunity for young, intelligent individuals reached the village. Aduku, knowing Pianu was not around, decided to keep the information to herself. She secretly filled out the application form and submitted it.

Fortunately, for Pianu, the officials processing the forms delayed their work, this allowed Pianu to learn about the opportunity. One of the officials, who knew Pianu, informed her about the scholarship and asked if she had applied. Pianu was unaware of the opportunity and inquired about it with Aduku, who had kept it a secret.

Pianu was deeply upset but chose to forgive Aduku, attributing her actions to unintentional behaviour.

As time passed, the scholarship officials invited applicants to take an examination. Aduku, once again, concealed this information from Pianu, who was preoccupied with caring for her hospitalized aunt.

Storytime

Pianu's absence from the examination worried Mrs. Ibibo, who had helped her with the application. Mrs. Ibibo, eventually found Pianu and arranged for her to take a separate examination. Pianu performed exceptionally well, earning a spot among the scholarship recipients. Aduku, on the other hand, scored poorly and was not selected for the scholarship. Despite this, Pianu sympathized with her friend's situation and sought ways to help her further her education.

Meanwhile, Aduku began spreading malicious rumours that Pianu had bribed her way into receiving the scholarship. The rumours reached the community head, who summoned Pianu to explain herself. Pianu patiently recounted her experiences, from learning about the scholarship to taking the examination. The community head, impressed by Pianu's sincerity, decided to test both Pianu and Aduku. Without their knowledge, he arranged for them to take another examination. The results revealed Pianu's exceptional intelligence, while Aduku failed miserably.

The community head, determined to teach Aduku a lesson and deter others from spreading rumours, awarded Pianu an additional scholarship to support her education. He also organised a reception in her honour, bestowing upon her the title of "Most Intelligent Girl of the Year."

Aduku, on the other hand, was publicly reprimanded for her deceitful behavior, serving as a cautionary tale about the dangers of spreading rumours and betraying trust.

Poems

Save me

Unseen spirit, heed my plea,
Save me from this haunting spree.
Young lives perish, shadows creep,
Fear consumes, I cannot sleep.

From death's call, I seek release,
A lifeline in this dire abyss.
Grant me solace, calm my dread,
Averse the doom that fills my head.

Unseen guide, extend your hand,
Protect me from this cruel strand.
Shield me from the icy grip,
Of fate that threatens to slip.

By your grace, may I be spared,
From untimely fate's despair.
Give me hope, extinguish fear,
In your arm, I'll persevere.

Divramredje Lawrence Efeturi

Soured Relation by Askiya D. Amakiri

She was riding on the Crest of the wave,
When suddenly, the news came as a Crushing blow,
Lara has finally broken Her heart
And everything has crumbled down
Like a pack of Cards,
Crashing into the sea,
She couldn't see;
She only heard the jeer.

Having noticed the rejection,
She slumped into utter dejection,
And scampered into oblivion
She was mocked, ignored,
And treated disdainfully,
Like a rag for the feet.

Alas, the glower disappeared .
Rushing tumultuously,
He chattered the time away deceptively,
With a whisper, I love you.



THE UNYIELDING SCHOLAR

by Maureen Ororho

Nneoma's small village was ravaged by devastating floods, displacing her family and community. Their home destroyed, they sought refuge in a makeshift camp. Amidst the chaos, Nneoma's education seemed a distant dream. But her determination to learn remained unshakeable.

When the village school was submerged underwater, Nneoma's parents feared her education was lost forever. Undeterred, Nneoma joined a makeshift school in the displacement camp, away from her home. The conditions in the school were harsh, with limited resources and overcrowding. Yet, she thrived.

Walking miles to school through treacherous terrain, Nneoma often arrived exhausted and hungry. But she captivated her teachers with her thirst for knowledge. Mrs. Okeke, a dedicated teacher, took Nneoma under her wing, providing extra tutoring and encouragement.

During the period of the flood, Nneoma's village faced severe risk of soil erosion. Their farms were destroyed; water sources were contaminated, and aid was scarce. Yet, Nneoma found solace in her studies.

As Nneoma's family struggled to rebuild after the flood, her father fell ill. Nneoma took on household chores and helped with her mother's small business. Still, she persisted in her studies.



Crédits : ELTAN Media : Meta Ai

THE UNYIELDING SCHOLAR

Nneoma's perseverance paid off when she secured a scholarship to attend the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She studied tirelessly, graduating at the top of her class with a degree in environmental science.

Today, Nneoma works for a leading Nigerian organization, developing sustainable solutions for rural communities. She returns to her village regularly, inspiring young girls to pursue education despite adversity.



Crédits : ELTAN media : Meta Ai

Nneoma's story teaches us:

- 1. Resilience conquers obstacles: Nneoma faced displacement, poverty, and hardship but remained determined.**
 - 2. Supportive mentors matter: Mrs. Okeke's guidance helped Nneoma stay focused.**
 - 3. Adaptability is key: Nneoma adapted to new environments, finding ways to learn amidst chaos.**
 - 4. Education transforms lives: Nneoma's education lifted her family out of poverty and empowered her to create positive change.**
- Nneoma's journey shows learning can thrive in challenging situations, fueled by passion, resilience, and support. Her story inspires us to: Embrace challenges as opportunities, Seek supportive mentors., Stay adaptable. and Recognize education's transformative power. Nneoma's unyielding spirit reminds us learning can overcome daunting difficulties. Her legacy encourages perseverance, adaptability, and excellence.**

English Connects Workshop: Advancing English Language Teaching in Niger State

By Lami Musa



Group picture



The workshop, which was held in Minna, the state capital in the month of November, began with an introduction and overview of ELTAN's vision and activities, delivered by Mrs. Joyce Amatotsero, the National Financial Secretary, who represented the National President, Dr. Kennedy Edegbe. This session provided participants with a clear understanding of ELTAN's role in promoting professional development and advancing the teaching of English language in Nigeria.

Participants were treated to a variety of interactive sessions and presentations that emphasized practical and innovative approaches to teaching. The first presentation, titled "From Classroom to Game Space", was delivered by Ms. Lami Musa. This session introduced participants to the concept of gamification in education, demonstrating how game-based learning can enhance student engagement and foster a deeper understanding of course content.

Participants actively engaged in group activities where they applied gamification strategies to create lesson plans, a hands-on approach that left them inspired and equipped to implement these ideas in their classrooms.

English Connects Workshop: Advancing English Language Teaching in Niger State

The second presentation, "Classroom Inclusiveness", was facilitated by Mrs. Joyce Amatotsero. This session focused on creating inclusive classrooms that cater to the diverse needs of students. It highlighted strategies for addressing challenges faced by students with varying learning abilities, cultural backgrounds, and socio-economic circumstances.

Participants found this session highly relevant and impactful, as it addressed pressing issues faced by educators today. In addition to these presentations, the workshop included informal networking sessions, which provided participants with the opportunity to connect and share experiences with peers from different parts of the state. Icebreaker activities and interactive discussions further enriched the program, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among attendees.

The event concluded with the election of interim executive team for the ELTAN Niger State Chapter, to ensure the association's activities in the State continue to thrive under effective leadership. Overall, the workshop was a resounding success. It provided participants with valuable insights, practical tools, and a platform for professional growth and networking. The collaboration with the British Council played a crucial role in the workshop's success, demonstrating the power of partnerships in advancing education.

ELTAN, Niger State Chapter, extends its profound gratitude to all resource persons, participants, and partners for their contributions to this landmark event. The association looks forward to more opportunities to enhance the teaching and learning of English across the State and beyond. This event is a testament to ELTAN's commitment to excellence and innovation in English language education.



**Lami
Musa**

is an English educator, researcher, and mentor who specializes in second language acquisition, phonics, flipped classrooms, and gamification. She effectively integrates online tools like Kahoot and Quizizz to empower learners and enhance education through innovative methods and inclusive teaching practices.

ELTAN IMO LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

By Blessing Ahuaza

ELTAN Imo was not left out in the scheme of things for 2024. Among other things, an event entitled “Eltan Imo Language Workshop” was held on the 31st of October 2024 at Government Secondary School Owerri. The Workshop specifically focused on the impact of music in learning poems and in being an apt resource for the teaching of English language speech sounds.

There were eighty-three teachers in attendance. It was a delight observing teachers interacting with one another and arguing constructively. There was also a picture session and the grand finale which was a general meeting of the Chapter.

The Chapter honoured some people and appreciated the past executives at the event.

They include Ven. Dr. Bethel Azubuike as the Grand Patron of the Association for the State, Dr. Eto Osuji, the incumbent National President of the Old Boys' Association of Government Secondary School Owerri, as a Patron of the Association and appreciating the immediate past executives of the Chapter which included Dr. Sheila Njemanze, Dr. Tina Anyanjanor and others.



Group picture

PAST AND PRESENT EXECUTIVES WITH THE AWARDEES

ELTAN IMO LANGUAGE WORKSHOP



Within the year, several members of the Chapter recorded significant milestones in their careers. These include one of our immediate past executives being conferred with the title of Associate Professor and the Financial Secretary leading her students to win first position in both Senior and Junior categories at the National All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPPS) event in Abuja. These accomplishments, along with other notable successes amongst our members, further highlight the excellence and impact of our Chapter. We hope to do better in the coming years as we plan to move ELTAN Imo around all the educational zones in the State. We can only achieve this by working harmoniously together with the advice and guidance from notable personalities within ELTAN National and other TAs. Our hope is in God!

**Blessing Ahuaza**

is an English Language teacher in the Department of Primary Education Studies, Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri. She is the current Chair, ELTAN Nigeria, Imo State. She is passionate in working with other teachers and TAs in achieving objectives and goals in teaching and learning.

ELTAN Lagos Chapter Report

By Mrs C. J. Chibuike



Group picture

The year 2024 kicked off with the 7th Annual ELTAN Lagos State Seminar/ Workshop which took place from 26th - 27th March, 2024 at Government College, Agege. The theme was “Digital Literacy in English and Literature-in-English: Exploring Innovative Ways to Integrate Technology for Effective Learning.”

An election to usher in the new State Executives was held in Ikeja on 13th June, 2024. Mr Idowu Taofiq emerged as the new Chairman while Mrs Chibuike, C. J retained her post as General Secretary.

A train-the-trainers workshop was organised by the Multilingual International Resource Centre in collaboration with ELTAN on 16th-17th July. The theme of the event was “Literary Appreciation/Critical Thinking Skills and Methodology.”

ELTAN Lagos Chapter was represented by the Chapter Chairman and Secretary at the ELTAN-English Connects Strategic Goals Alignment/ Leadership Workshop which took place on 23rd-24th August, 2024 in Ikoyi.

Education District IV had her ELTAN Week in Surulere from 23rd -26th September themed “The Balanced Educator.” Highlights included Awards for dedicated officers, Spelling Bee for students and Health Talk for teachers.

ELTAN Lagos Chapter 2024 in Review



Education District 1 also had her 3rd Annual Seminar/Workshop in Agege on 30th October, 2024 themed “Dynamics of Digitalisation and Innovative Ways of Teaching English Language and Literature-in-English in Secondary Schools.” Highlights: Awards for deserving retired officers and members, plenary sessions, Quiz, etc.



C. J. Chibuike

Mrs C.J. Chibuike is the Gen. Sec. ELTAN Lagos Chapter. She is an author, publisher, editor, reviewer, BC Master Trainer, IELTS Trainer, Associate Lecturer, HOD Languages and a multiple award winner. She's a member of Africa ELTA and IATEFL.

Education District V had her ELTAN Day in Badagry on 28th November, 2024 themed “Happy Teachers: Productive Teachers.” Highlights included Playlet, Cultural display, Fashion Parade, The Spoken Word, Awards for retired/ serving officers and an Interactive Session to proffer solutions to the perennial dismal performance of students in both WAEC and BECE Examinations.

To round off the activities for the year, a high-powered delegation of the Chairman, the General Secretary, the Public Relations Officer, and the Auditor visited the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education on December 19th, to discuss strategies to improve teaching and learning in Lagos State Schools.

On the whole, ELTAN Lagos Chapter had a fulfilling year and we expect to do more come 2025 by God's grace.

Summary of the English Connects Workshop, Bauchi

By Mrs Ruth Ogboji



Bauchi State Group picture

The Development Exchange Centre (DEC) in Bauchi hosted a one-day workshop titled "Knowing the Subject" on October 26, 2024, with Abel Eleojo Ochika serving as the lead facilitator. The professional development event brought together 58 English Language teachers and lecturers (34 females and 24 males) from Bauchi town and its environs, focusing on enhancing their subject knowledge and teaching capabilities.

The English Connects Workshop empowered educators with tools and strategies to enhance subject mastery and teaching effectiveness. Through three interactive sessions, participants explored:

1. **Resource Utilization:** Accessing online tools and addressing gendered language in classrooms facilitated by Mallam Auwal Hassan.
2. **Teaching Phonetics:** Effective strategies for second-language learners, integrating climate-conscious discussions facilitated by Mr Babangida Danladi.
3. **Inclusive Assessments:** Designing formative and summative evaluations to cater to diverse learners facilitated by Mrs Lami Nwachukwu.

The workshop emphasized gender inclusion, climate awareness, and equitable teaching practices, leaving participants equipped with actionable strategies to transform their classrooms.

Thank you to ELTAN and the British Council for enabling this impactful initiative.

Summary of the English Connects Workshop, Bauchi



A Cross-section of participants during the workshop



Mrs Ruth Ogboji

Ruth Ogboji, an English teacher at Government Girls' College Kafin Madaki, Bauchi, has 15+ years of experience. She founded the English Expression Club and is the Secretary of ELTAN Bauchi State Chapter.

HIGHLIGHTS

Theme: Knowing the Subject

Date: 26 October 2024

Venue: Development Exchange Centre (DEC) Bauchi

Duration: 1 Full Day (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Audience: English Language Teachers and Lecturers from Bauchi and environs

Attendance: 58 (Female 34, Male 24)

Lead facilitator: Abel Eleojo Ochika

FROM MY CLASSROOM

BY RASHEEDAT SADIQ

Promoting Critical Thinking and Intercultural Awareness

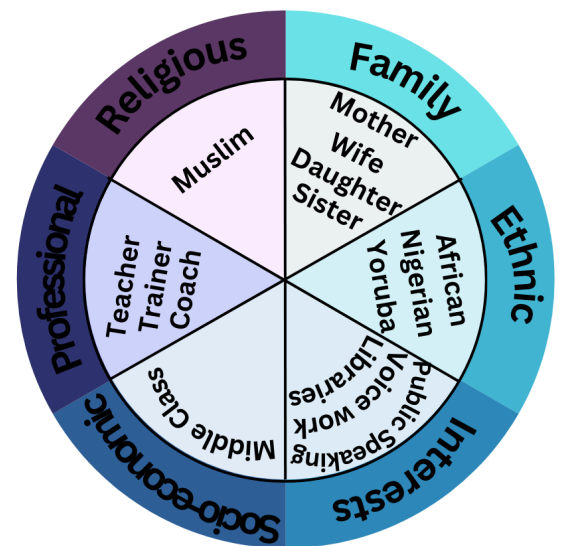
I work in a private primary and secondary school and have taught a wide range of learners. I currently teach English to basic 9 who are around 14 years old. After taking a course on Teaching English for Critical Intercultural Awareness, I decided to integrate the concept of culture into my lessons while covering content on the syllabus.

We looked into the concept of culture and microculture and the learners created their identity wheels which got them thinking introspectively and becoming more self-aware. I was also able to learn new things about my students that I used in planning lessons that are relatable.

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Identities Wheel

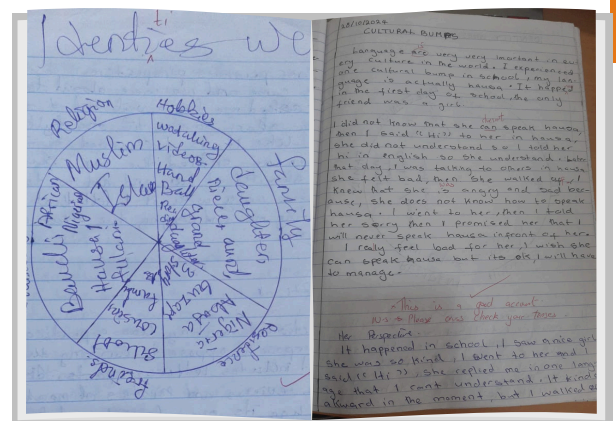


R. Sadiq

The lesson was a tremendous success as we learnt about various cultures and things that are acceptable or unacceptable in different cultures.

I shared a bump I experienced when I had to turn down a handshake from a male superior and I also learnt that in some cultures it is seen as rude for children to sit with adults, among other bumps my learners shared.

I appreciated the manner in which my students were able to think deeply, listen actively and learn real world lessons.



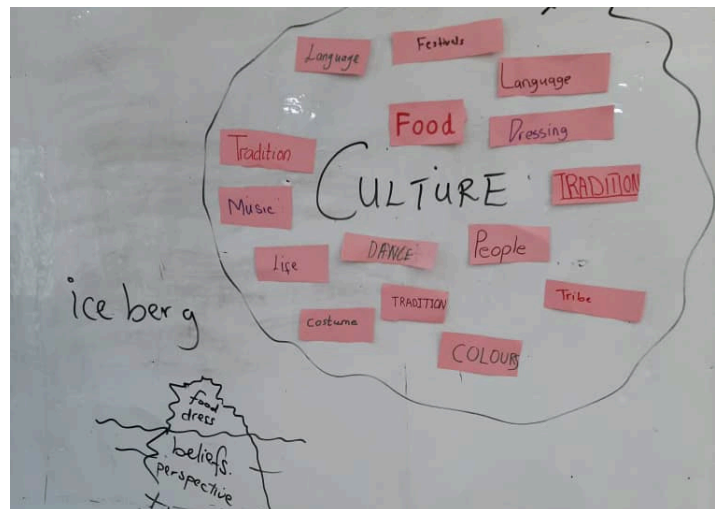
FROM MY CLASSROOM

BY RASHEEDAT SADIQ



CRITICAL THINKING

The term critical thinking in my opinion is the ability to process ideas and thoughts in a manner that considers different perspectives and questions accepted norms with a view to creating solutions which are innovative and fit for specific contexts.



CULTURAL BUMPS LESSON PLAN

Objectives: Speaking, listening, understanding of others' perspectives and writing from various points of view.

Warmer: The lesson starts by co-creation of a world cloud with learners where each person writes one word that they associate with the word 'Culture' on a piece of card board and comes to stick it on to the chart.

Introduction: The teacher shares her identity wheel and introduces the concept of different cultures and microcultures. The teacher asks them in what ways their identities differ from hers.

Step 1 (Speaking): Learners are asked to discuss with a partner how differences in culture may lead to misunderstandings which are also known as cultural bumps. The teacher monitors the discussion and ask pairs to share some ideas with the class.

Step 2 (Writing): The teacher asks learners to write about any cultural bumps they have experienced from two points of view (theirs and the other party). The teacher shares her own cultural bump write-up as a model. She highlights reflective and critical thinking practices like being objective, offering alternatives, and analysing situations logically.

Step 3 (Analysis and feedback): Students exchange with a partner and read each other's cultural bumps, evaluate and comment on if both perspectives written were balanced i.e. adequately represented.

Extension Activity: Each student will design their identity wheel to show in the next class.

HOW OUR MOTHERS SPOILED OUR BROTHERS

BY SALLIE DIXSON

The evening air in Port Harcourt hung thick with the aroma of cooking noodles, a familiar scent that drifted between the compact stalls of Gbakagbaka street, a high plus middle-class neighborhood in Abuloma. Efe adjusted her smart work blazer, her heels clicking against the tarred road as she approached Iya Bisi's small shop. The day's heat was slowly giving way to the softer light of dusk, casting long shadows between the buildings. The aroma of noodles being cooked wafted into her nostrils, making her decide to pick a few packs from Iya Bisi as she had been undecided about what to have for dinner.

Iya Bisi's stall was a neat little space, a kiosk imposed on the compound wall, meticulously organized with packets of noodles, sachets of spices, tomatoes, pepper, and other daily necessities lined up like soldiers, with a table just outside bearing fresh tomatoes, pepper, ginger, and okra. Just outside, Bisi moved quietly, washing the plastic buckets and basins her mother had used all day to grind wet and dry things in her big grinder, her thirteen-year-old frame bent under the weight of unseen expectations.

"Good evening, Iya Bisi," Efe called out, her Delta-tinged Pidgin English warm and familiar. "I need two packs of noodles for dinner, two eggs, one onion, some ginger and garlic and #100 spinach."

As Iya Bisi began packaging the noodles, Efe's eyes drifted to where Bayo, the six-year-old son, sat playing with a toy car. Nearby, Ade, eleven years old, lounged on a chair, completely unbothered by the evening's chores. She had become accustomed to Iya Bisi's style of raising her children.

Bisi had finished washing and was now sweeping, her movements precise but heavy with something more than just physical tiredness. Efe watched as the girl accidentally bumped into Bayo, causing his toy to fall. Before Bisi could even react, Iya Bisi's sharp voice cut through the evening air.

"Don't you dare bully my son!" Iya Bisi's voice trembled with a mixture of protection and something deeper -- a memory of pain. "I almost died bringing him into this world through a cesarean. How many times do I have to remind you of this? I have warned you times without number to be careful. Don't you dare blame him for your clumsiness. You're not the only one who comes from school to help their mothers!"



HOW OUR MOTHERS SPOILED OUR BROTHERS CONTINUED

The scene was achingly familiar. Efe's mind drifted to her childhood and the neighbours. Most had been like Iya Bisi, wanting their daughters to do all the chores while the boys either played football or watched TV. Their sisters did the laundry and dishes, even walked miles to get water for the household whenever the public taps weren't flowing.

Azubuiké, a friend's husband she knew too well, was a cautionary tale of what happens when mothers shield their sons too carefully, when daughters are taught that their worth is measured by their ability to serve.

She remembered Azubuiké's wife, who had once confided in her with tears in her eyes. "He expects everything to be done for him," she had whispered, "just like his mother always did."

As Iya Bisi handed her the noodles, Efe saw her opening. "Iya Bisi," she began gently, "let me tell you a story."

She spoke of Azubuiké -- how his mother never let him do any chores, being the last child and only son. He never helped at home nor took his studies seriously, thinking his mother and sisters would always be there for him. Even in the university, he relied on girls to prepare his meals and do his laundry. His mother ensured he had everything he needed and never lacked.

His sisters, on the other hand, braided hair, made clothes, and even sold kerosene or anything students needed in the hostel to support the little their parents provided. Just before Azubuiké wrote his final exams, his mother took ill. In no time, she had spent all her savings on treatment, leaving Azubuiké without his usual support.

Fortunately, his mother survived but retired soon after, left with a meagre pension. Azubuiké's sisters supported their mother. They had become financially responsible and independent, supporting their own families. Azubuiké, however, couldn't stay in a job for long. He had little patience with colleagues and an entitlement mentality, expecting everyone to do his bidding.

Even after getting married, he still called on his mum for support whenever rent was due or he needed to pay his children's fees. He grew up avoiding any extra work to support his family, even though he was already in his forties. His wife tried to support him by working extra hours.

"Your daughters are not just future wives," Efe said softly. "They are future leaders, providers, pillars of strength and so your sons will be too. You need to start giving them the training that you give to Bisi."

Iya Bisi stood, mouth agape, listening to Efe, her eyes glistening. "But this is how my mother raised me," she said, her voice a mixture of defense and emerging understanding. "This is the only way I know." She recalled her only brother, who, though doing well, would never support his sisters who didn't go to college or university, just so their brother could attend.

The evening settled around them -- a moment suspended between tradition and change, between the weight of generations and the possibility of something different. In the background, Bisi continued sweeping, Bayo played with his toy, and Ade remained seated. But something in the air had shifted -- subtle, almost imperceptible, but real.

To Great: A Father's Reflections on His Son's Growing into Manhood By **Ozegide, Chukwuemeka Godwin**

Adorned at birth with honour's robe,
Greatness called your name.
Free in spirit, fierce for knowledge,
You braved dusty Proton roads,
Green-streaked lanes of UPS,
And USS halls, untarnished by stumble,
Carrying the quiet fire of study.

Drawn to the rhythm of distant duty,
You answered the Seminary's call.
In St. Peter's embrace, devotion grew,
Days of silence, trials of flesh,
Preparing for a life of service.
What greater calling than to God and man?

Paddle higher, son, over life's currents.
Feel the ache of others' burdens,
Let kindness flow as breath does.
With restraint to guide your path,
And balance for the fiercest waves,
May hope steer you steady,
And your hand's quiet weight inspire.



The Discerner's Eyes by Divramredje Lawrence Efeturi



The moment the blind man sees,
Regaining his stolen sight,
He casts away the stick
That guided through the night.

Like one who climbs to heights,
Then discards the helping hand,
He cunningly cuts ties,
And tries to take a stand.

But know, ungrateful heart,
The rains will surely fall,
And dampen your prideful art,
As you face life's bitter squall.

So heed this warning clear,
For gratitude is your shield,
Or face the storms of fear,
And find no mercy revealed.

COMMUNICATION: THE GLOBAL UNITING PHENOMENON

By Daniel Paul

The fast-paced development of the world in technology, science and arts is largely measured by the ability to communicate the new inventions and innovations to the global community. One wonders how the world would have interacted with itself and the ecosystem without communication. The affection we share, the business transactions we engage in, the education we acquire, the healthcare tips we receive, the religion we practice and every other daily interaction we are involved in are made possible through communication. It is in this era of massive communication through the use of technology and other means of mass media that the world is termed "The Global Village." Man's ability to communicate with a distant neighbour thousands of miles away is one of the greatest achievements of the 21st Century. In fact, communication predates history, perhaps precedes the current Information Age and might be traceable to the Creator Himself – the existence of the world is biblically believed to emanate from the creative communication of the Creator as recorded in the Holy Writ.

Multiplication of languages all over the world has its place in the Bible in the epicentre known as the "Tower of Babel" where man's architectural ingenuity was first discovered. The communicative strength of man at that point had given him the unifying force or togetherness of constructing a tower with the sole aim of reaching out to the peak where God can be reached for fellowship and sustained communication. This may be recorded as the giant innovation that cradles the beginning of man's achievement in science.

Though the intention was divinely viewed not appropriate for man, hence the exponential creation of languages.

In this light, healthy communication brings togetherness, innovations, ingenuity, productivity and fast-paced development as we witness in the global community of the 21st Century. Through communication, bilateral relations are strengthened, business transactions are extended beyond our borders and cultural values and norms are spread to even people outside the reach of our culture.

What then is communication? According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary – New 9th Edition, communication is the "activity or process of expressing ideas and feelings or of giving people information." It is also the process of exchanging information, ideas, thoughts, opinions, or messages between individuals, groups, or organizations through a common system of symbols, signs, or behaviour.

The two definitions above have captured the frontal function of communication to man's existence. Wars, frictions and perhaps some deaths occurred due to either poor communication, lack of communication or breach in communication. Peace, friendship and smooth interaction are also built and sustained by communication that borders on the choice of words of the party involved. It is understandable to argue that thoughts are unexpressed communication in our mind. It is also appropriate to know that, propelling actions and innovations are communicated for actionable activity for man's benefit by expressing the ideas.

Communication is deemed effective when the following are involved:

- Sender: The person conveying the message.
- Message: The information being conveyed.
- Channel: The medium used to convey the message (e.g., speech, text, email).
- Receiver: The person receiving the message.
- Feedback: The response or reaction of the receiver to the message.

Communication can be passed through:

- * Verbal means - spoken or written
- * Nonverbal means - body language, facial expressions, tone of voice

Good communication is essential in all aspects of life, including personal relationships, education, business, and healthcare. The world should focus on the global peace and sustainability.

The great Mahatma Ghandi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance to injustice inspired by Henry David Thoreau and Leo Tolstoy through his peaceful approach to evil situations of his days by his communication stood as an enduring legacy even after many years of his departure to the great beyond.

Ghandi's methods and philosophy have influenced civil rights and social justice movements globally, including the American Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, and Arab Spring.

Communication should be used to benefit man in terms of fostering unity, settling disputes, inventing and innovating propelling ideas that would bring improved existence to man's earth habitation rather than used to divide man against his neighbour and destroy the marginal gains man has made over the years.



Interview with the 13th National Conference LOC chairman, Dr Abashi Michael Attah

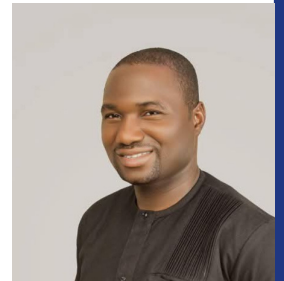
The highly anticipated 13th National Conference of the English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria, ELTAN held at Federal University of Lafia, Nassarawa State featured distinguished academics addressing the theme "Advances in ELT for Pedagogical Implementation of 21st Century Skills." The intellectual discourse was enriched by Professor Adewole Alagbe from Nasarawa State University, Keffi, who delivered the keynote while Dr. Jessica Pinta of Plateau State Polytechnic was lead paper presenter, alongside an international perspective to the conference given by Professor Cina P. Mosito from Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, who also served as a lead paper presenter. The conference hosted a one-day pre-conference training for primary and secondary school teachers and 78 teachers were in attendance. The conference also had in attendance international participants from Sénégal and Burkina Faso.



ELTAN Media

As the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chairman for the 13th National Conference at Federal University of Lafia, what challenges did you face balancing this role with your other responsibilities?

"It was quite tasking being the LOC chairman, in addition to my other job roles. Our responsibilities ranged from securing the venue at Federal University of Lafia to selecting the best halls and finding suitable, pocket-friendly hotels for conferees. We also had to assemble an effective LoC team, coordinate food and other vendors, and manage transportation for conferees, most of whom were visiting Lafia for the first time. Through it all, ensuring the conference ran smoothly was our top priority.



ELTAN Media

How has this conference contributed to your professional growth and the professional growth of other teachers?

"The Conference has helped in widening my scope of understanding English Language teaching in the 21st Century. Professionally, it has helped in better understanding of classroom management, lesson preparations, and delivery.



ELTAN Media

What role do you think continuous professional development plays in adapting to new teaching challenges?

"Continuous Professional Development is pivotal in addressing the challenges of teaching and learning. It helps with the new methods and techniques of addressing contemporary teaching challenges.

Attah Michael Abashi holds a Ph.D in English Language with specialisation in Syntax. He teaches English Language courses in the Department of English and Literary Studies, Federal University of Lafia, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Attah is an academic with a decade of teaching and research experience and has written and published many scholarly articles both nationally and internationally.

His research interests include Syntax, Morphology, Semantics, Pragmatics and Applied Linguistics.

CAIRO, EGYPT

AFRICA ELTA CONFERENCE DELEGATION REPORT

by Chime Light

Chime, Light is an Edu-Tech Specialist, Africa ELTA board member, and a member in the Enugu Chapter of ELTAN

In a significant milestone for the teaching of English Language in Nigeria, the Regional English Language Office (RELO) Kinshasa sponsored five ELTAN delegates to the Africa ELTA Conference and Africa ELTA & TESOL Leadership Workshop at the University of Hertfordshire, Cairo, Egypt. This blended learning program included several online learning modules (9 - 23 May 2024) and a 1-day in-person workshop (29 May 2024).

The AFRICA ELTA 2024 Conference served as a pivotal platform where Nigeria's representatives contributed to the continental dialogue on innovations in English language teaching. Through RELO's support, our participation highlighted the growing synergy between U.S. educational initiatives and African teaching excellence.

The Africa ELTA & TESOL Leadership Training brought together fifty (50) emerging English Language Teachers Associations' leaders from across Africa. This intensive program delivered expert-led sessions on association management, strategic planning, sustainable leadership practices, branding, advocacy, and so on.





CAIRO, EGYPT

AFRICA ELTA CONFERENCE

DELEGATION REPORT

The Nigerian delegation (Dr. Kennedy Edegbe; Abel Ochika; Ruth Ogboji; Light Chime; Dr. Rasheedat Sadiq; and Blessing Epum), delivered compelling academic presentations that showcased innovative teaching methodologies and research findings to the international audience.

The conference's collaborative environment enabled valuable connections with educators, researchers, and policy-makers from various African nations. RELO's sponsorship exemplified the US government's dedication to strengthening educational partnerships across Africa.

This transformative experience, made possible through RELO, TESOL, and Africa ELTA, has equipped our delegation with advanced leadership skills and innovative teaching strategies. Through a strategic action plan, the team has continually maximised personal, local, and national ELTAN meetings as opportunities to cascade this experience to equip ELTAN members. We have also organised special Zoom sessions and the pre-conference workshop during the 2024 ELTAN National Conference/Workshop which was held in Nasarawa State to share professional development strategies learnt from the Africa ELTA conference. These gains have repositioned ELTAN strategically to elevate English Language Teaching standards in Nigeria and across the African continent.



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We extend our sincere appreciation to the British Council, whose unwavering support has been the cornerstone of ELTAN's growth and development. Through their consistent sponsorship of our events and workshops, they have demonstrated an enduring commitment to advancing English language teaching in Nigeria. Their partnership has enabled us to create meaningful professional development opportunities for our members and strengthen our educational communities.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Linda Ruas, whose expert guidance and dedication were instrumental in bringing our association's newsletter to life. Her invaluable mentorship during our team's Future Leaders of ELTA course has inspired our monthly webinar series, which we have successfully maintained for more than 12 months uninterrupted. Under her guidance, we have also benefited immensely from vital initiatives including the English Connects TNC and Meta CoP TAs Projects.

This comprehensive training laid the foundation for what has now evolved into a promising quarterly publication. Her commitment to excellence continues to inspire our editorial approach as we move forward with this second edition.

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As we continue to grow and evolve, we remain deeply grateful for these partnerships that help us fulfill our mission of supporting and empowering English language teachers across Nigeria.

