Abstract
The study examined Nigerian English (NE) coinages borne out of socio-cultural norms, experiences and practices. It also looked at the socio-pragmatic factors that influenced these coinages. Seven categories of Nigerian English coinages were identified and tested among different groups of English as second language users. A researcher-designed questionnaire was used to gather data from 50 randomly selected individuals taking into consideration education, status and class. Data collected were analysed using frequency count and percentages. Findings revealed that some of the features of Nigerian English coinages are more acceptable and intelligible than others. That is, Nigerian English coinages in texts, discussions and newspapers enjoyed the highest acceptability rating while coinages based on meaning broadening, narrowing and total shift received the highest intelligibility rating. It was recommended that Nigerian English and its coinages should have agreed norms and conventions that can be used as a model for education and public use while maintaining Standard English usage in grammar and pronunciation. These coinages should also be codified and included in dictionaries and grammar books.

Keywords: Nigerian English, Coinages, Usage, Socio-pragmatic, perspective

Introduction
Language, from time immemorial, has often been used as a code of communication and a means of defining culture and ethnic boundaries. This means of communication is therefore essentially a property of society used for expressing the culture of its users. Hence, Nigerian English cannot be separated from the culture of the Nigerian people. In the Nigerian
situation where English is in contact with many local languages, it is to be expected that the kind of English found will be different from the varieties of English spoken in countries where English is the mother tongue. Also, when two or more languages and cultures come into contact, different types of sociolinguistic chemistry such as diglossia, language shift, attrition, codeswitching, creolization, pidginization, and the birth of a new language or even linguicide (i.e. death of an existing language) take place.

Lexically, Nigerian English is very close to Standard British English [SBE], but allows some divergence from it. Such divergence is widely exemplified in the use of loan words and coinages such as “academician” for “academic”, “palm wine” for “fermented juice”; “to wet flowers” for “to water flowers”. These are however substandard variety of Nigerian English. Educated Nigerians stick to the standard forms of “academic” and “to water flowers.”

When a word or an idiom is employed to express a meaning which it does not hitherto convey, the meaning and referent are said to have expanded. In other words, a change in the sense of a word causes a modification in the mental content that constitutes the meaning of such lexical item. A word can be given a new meaning by an individual or by the public. At times, a coinage receives public acceptance if it is considered the most appropriate word to capture a concept among a speech community. This is because the meaning scribed to a word by its use in a context will take precedence over its etymological derivation. In a nutshell, what this implies is that it is the use of words that determines the meanings of words. Certain words or lexical items have meanings that can only be understood within the Nigerian context and reflect a statement which marks a characteristic of Nigerian English or phenomenon. One of the forms in which this is manifested is in coinages. Coinage is a word formation process in which a new word or phrase is created deliberately or accidentally to express a cultural concept or idea. For example, the words father, mother/mummy, sister, brother, and uncle are being coined and stretched to cover someone with no biological relationship to the person concerned.

Therefore, NE coinages have emerged out of the necessity to capture certain concepts and ideas, social norms and values that are peculiar to the Nigerian environment which would not have been properly captured in
English without adding local content, flavour, flora and fauna. Identifying some of these coinages, the factors that influenced them and how they have impacted communication and understanding is the focus of this paper.

Statement of the Problem
Many Nigerian EL users (students and professionals) use coinages in day to day conversations and interactions. There is a lot of confusion as to which of these coinages fall under standard NE and can be used even in international communication without being considered as wrong usages and grammatical or semantic errors by native speakers. This paper seeks to make a distinction between the standard and substandard forms; and to verify whether these coinages fall within the domain of what is considered to be socially acceptable and intelligible.

Literature
This study is based on some sociolinguistic ideas and concepts. It is related to the concept of varieties of English as a result of the interaction between English language and other indigenous languages. Another related theory of languages in contact is the emergence of alternative speech forms when two or more languages interact (Fatimayin, 2012). The contact between English Language and Nigeria's indigenous languages has resulted in certain concepts such as bilingualism, multilingualism, code-mixing, code-switching, language shift, borrowings and coinages. When languages come into contact, borrowing especially of lexical items or individual words takes place hence Nigerian English vocabulary contains a large number of words that are found in British English. It also consists of words borrowed from Nigerian indigenous languages, words coined from local situations and words which are not typically Nigerian but have peculiar significance for Nigerians.

Socio-pragmatic Knowledge
Socio-pragmatics entails the appropriate usage and selection of language in accordance with context and the ability to understand the social conventions that govern communication. Failure to use appropriate socio-pragmatic features may result in serious communication breakdown between speakers.
As an aspect of sociolinguistics, socio-pragmatics borders on the ability to use language appropriately to convey messages while observing the social and cultural conventions guiding such use in a particular speech community (Ekwelibe 2015).

Nigeria uses English to express her indigenous cultures. Expressing a different culture in a foreign language requires that such language be acculturated to meet the needs of the L2 users in their local environment to express concepts and modes of interaction with the ultimate goal of communication. The socio-cultural setting of the L2 user of English, to a large extent, influences the structure and meaning interpretation. Thus, the culture in which an L2 speaker finds himself is a major determinant of what a word will mean to him (Ekwelibe 2015). Knowledge of socio-pragmatics therefore enables one to interpret not only the literal meaning of an utterance but also the meanings that derive from the norms of formality and politeness that exist in the society where the language is used as well as the unstated meanings that derive from the shared previous knowledge of the speaker and hearer and the situation in which the utterances are used. Absence or low level of socio-pragmatic knowledge therefore causes failure in intelligibility (Sezgi 2008).

**Nigerian English and Its Features**

Nigerian English (NE) is a dialect of English spoken in Nigeria. Features of Nigerian English can be seen in areas such as stress patterns, idiomatic expressions and prepositions. There is also the tendency to omit the preposition ‘to’ in the collocation ‘enable someone/ something to do something’ as one of the key features of NE. So, where Nigerians would write or say, ‘I hereby apply for a loan to enable me buy a car,’ British or American English speakers would write or say, ‘I hereby apply for a loan to enable me TO buy a car.’ While Nigerians blithely omit prepositions when they use ‘enable,’ ‘contest,’ ‘reply,’ they gladly pluck some from the air and insert them where they are normally not used by native speakers. An example is the phrase ‘request FOR.’ In American and British English ‘request’ is never followed by a preposition. For example, where Nigerians would say ‘I requested FOR a loan from my bank,’ native speakers of the English language
would write ‘I requested a loan from my bank.’ (Farooq A. Kperog, Sunday
Trust [Nigeria], July 15, 2012)

In terms of phonology, NE varies from region to region, and as such,
phonological variables are realized in different ways in different regions.
Some common features include:

i. Voiced -z sounds in which the "s" is present in spelling, i.e. "boys" is pronounced /bɔɪs/ thus becoming voiceless. ii. Backing of /ɪ/ vowels into /e/, exhibited in words such as "expect", pronounced /ɪkˈspekt/ in NE. iii. Because voiced palato-
alveolar fricative /ʒ/ is not present in most Nigerian varieties, any words including this phoneme are converted into the /ʃ/ sound, such as in the word "conclusion", pronounced /kənˈkljuːʃən/ in NE. (Okoro 2017).

Nigerian English: Intelligibility and Acceptability
There is no doubt that NE has come to stay. However, there is the standard
NE and the non-standard NE (Mfon, 2010). The Nonstandard NE is the
speech form used in Nigeria that does not conform to the set down rules of
English language. This variety of English may be acceptable and intelligible
locally but it lacks international acceptability and intelligibility. These include
(a) outright errors like *He is experienced, matured and able: (b) Misuse of
the codes like *I can hear a smell (Perceive). (c) Peculiar Nigerian usage like
*Mr. Thomas is a retiree. (Retired from circular work) (d) Those that have a
distinct localised Nigerian flavour- e.g. *You meet me well (invitation to a
visitor who arrives at meal time) (O koro 2011). Note that the non-standard
NE has features that make it internationally unintelligible though it is locally
intelligible.

Standard NE is a variety of language spoken by the educated Nigerians. It
is a variety marked by a high social acceptability and high international
intelligibility. It has its local flavours distinguishing it from British English.
Some examples include: “backyard” - (the rear of the house), and can also
be vulgarly used to refer to a lady’s ‘buttocks’.
ii. “Cover-cloth” is a piece of cloth wrapped around the body when
sleeping.
iii. “Half-current” from electricity that is not fully generated. NE
coinages can also be seen in certain acronyms such as J.A.M.B. (Joint Admission and Matriculation Board), ABU for Ahmadu Bello University and NAN (News Agency of Nigeria). Other examples of NE coinages include long leg, free and fair, carpet crossing, money bag, and bottom power, agbada/babanriga, akara, bean cake in English, Akamu, akpu, banga, eba, egusi, ogbono, 419, long legs, danfo, okada and many more.

These examples indicate clearly that the items have been borrowed into the English language because they cannot be accurately translated into English and still maintain the speakers’ intended meaning. However, once a word has been borrowed into English in Nigeria they become part of the NE vocabulary. Based on these contributions, it is clear that Nigerian coinages enable users to communicate, be understood and are a reflection of the Nigerian people, their environment, values, experiences, culture and worldview.

Methodology
The study is corpus based as data were collected from speeches, writings from texts, newspapers, magazines, live TV speeches, random conversations and discussions to obtain the various features of Nigerian English coinages and context of their usage. The population of study comprised all Nigerian English language users. Random sampling method was employed in the selection of fifty people from schools (secondary and tertiary), offices, the streets, shops, TV and radio stations to enable the researcher obtain data from all spheres of the populace. The spread covers education, status and class. A researcher-designed questionnaire was used to gather information on how intelligible and acceptable Nigerian English coinages are in day to day usage. In addition, speeches, writings from texts, newspapers, random conversations and live TV programmes were also used. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts and error analysis.

Data Presentation and Analysis
The data obtained covered seven carefully selected aspects of Nigerian English coinages, namely: 1. Coinages based on Category Shift. 2. Coinages
due to inappropriate insertion of preposition. 3. Coinages based on meaning broadening, narrowing or total shift. 4. Lexical coinages peculiar to Nigerian English. 5. Nigerian English coinages in texts, newspapers and interviews. 6. Nigerian English coinages picked up from random conversations and discussions. 7. Coinages based on Peculiar Nigeria English Variants of Native-speaker Idioms.

These features were identified in twenty-eight different sentences with the respective features presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>NE Coinages</th>
<th>SBE Variety</th>
<th>Users’ Socio-pragmatic Perspective of NE Coinages</th>
<th>Acceptability</th>
<th>Intelligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Freq (%)</td>
<td>Decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>piecesed</td>
<td>Dissembled</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>horned</td>
<td>Honked</td>
<td></td>
<td>40 80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>chairmanned</td>
<td>Chaired</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>demanded for</td>
<td>Demanded</td>
<td></td>
<td>42 84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>denied of</td>
<td>Denied</td>
<td></td>
<td>45 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>rift</td>
<td>Fumigate</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Machine</td>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td></td>
<td>22 44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>insulting</td>
<td>Insulting</td>
<td></td>
<td>45 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>off-hand</td>
<td>Off-hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Followership</td>
<td>Following</td>
<td></td>
<td>37 74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Yahoo boys</td>
<td>Cybercrime offenders</td>
<td></td>
<td>48 96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>returnee</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>professional politician</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>budget padding</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Boko haram</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>45 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Godfatherism</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>45 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>killer herdsmen</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis: Coinages based on Category Shift

Category shift in word classes is a process in which a word that originally belonged to a word class gradually begins to be used as another word class. However, while this process occurs naturally enough in native English usage for example, the word “source”, used as both a noun and verb, in L2 contexts it often violates some usage constraints and yields unacceptable results. As previously mentioned, Okoro (2004) considers these as innovations that amount to misuse of code. The category shift in above sentences is highlighted thus:

- Horn ’! horned (category shifted from noun to verb)
- Pieces ’! piecesed (category shifted from noun to verb)
- Chairman ’! chairmanned (category shifted from noun to verb)

Coinages due to inappropriate insertion of preposition

This feature is observed in NE users by both those with low education and
the well-educated. Okoro (2011), in his classification of non-standard NE labels such as an outright error. Though it may be acceptable locally, it cannot be used in international communication as such it lacks international intelligibility.

**Coinages based on meaning broadening, narrowing or total Shift**

Language change can occur through meaning broadening, meaning narrowing or total shift in meaning. According to Ekundayo (2013), Nigerians display the linguistic tendency of stretching the meanings of words beyond their assigned dictionary and native meanings. However, while meaning change is a gradual and uniform process in native speaker English, it is quite arbitrary, erratic, often unexplainable and disturbingly widespread in Nigerian English, e.g. Flit- broadening from ‘brand name for an insecticide’ to include ‘all insecticides ‘as well as the act of spraying insecticide.

Themselves- meaning broadening from ‘reflexive pronoun’ to now included ‘reciprocal pronoun’.

Machine- shift from ‘an appliance using mechanical power to apply forces and control movement for performing an intended action’ to ‘a motorcycle’

**Lexical Coinages Peculiar to Nigerian English**

This is a peculiar kind of coinage resulting from faulty analogy. That is, if B is similar to A in a certain respect, then what goes for A in that respect can also be applied to B on the basis of this similarity. However, because the English language is not as logical as our rational mind constantly considers it, this kind of reasoning frequently yields erroneous expressions which may be termed faulty analogy errors. Examples include:

1. *upliftment: uplift ‘! *upliftment (instead of ‘uplift’)
2. *Insultive: insult ‘! *insultive (instead of ‘insulting’).
3. *off-head. To remember something offhand is to be able to remember it immediately without having to think about it or consult a source. Nigerians have substituted it for the coinage ‘offhead’, because after all the remembering is done with the head, not the hand!
4. *followership: follower ‘! *followership (instead of ‘following’)


Nigerian English Coinages in Texts, Newspapers and Interviews
This applies to the items such as ‘godfatherism’, ‘budget padding’, ‘professional politician’, ‘killer herdsmen’. These manifest because the existing semantic resources of the English language are incapable of serving local communicative needs, making it necessary for Nigerians to invent new words (Opara 2016).

Nigerian English Coinages Picked up from Random Conversations and Discussions.
Coinages in this category include words like ‘concoction (rice)’, ‘high table’, ‘runs-girl’. These words have different meanings to the native speakers of English. In a situation where there are no words in the native speakers’ variety to accommodate experiences or phenomenon exclusive to the Nigerian environment, Nigerians are forced to invent words to meet their communicative need (Opara 2016). These innovations may not necessarily be used by native speakers; it however is locally acceptable and internationally intelligible.

Users’ perception of coinages and neologisms in NE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of Nigerian English Coinage Tested</th>
<th>Perception In Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acceptability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigerian English coinages in texts, newspapers and interviews</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peculiar Nigeria English Variant English Idioms</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate insertion of preposition</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexical coinages peculiar to Nigerian English</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random conversations and discussions</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category Shift</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning Broadening, Narrowing and Total Shift</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As seen from the table, Nigerian English coinages in texts, newspapers and interviews and Nigerian English variants of native English idioms were the most perceived as acceptable and intelligible feature of NE coinages while coinages based on meaning broadening, narrowing and total shift were perceived to be the least acceptable. The table also showed the relative positions of the other features.

Discussion of Findings
Findings from the study indicated that some NE coinages have wider usage than others. Those with wider usage include inappropriate insertion of prepositions, meaning broadening, narrowing or total semantic shifts and extensions of SBE lexemes, coinages in texts and idioms. These lexical items are used in ways that reflect Nigerian experiences and culture without sounding bookish. It is noteworthy that some socio-cultural norms are embedded in NE coinages, many of which appear to be context-based such as ‘returnee’, ‘professional politician’, ‘419’, etc. This indicates that there is a relationship between contexts and meaning. Contexts and functions are crucial to the understanding of the NE coinages as context influences not only lexical choice but also the meaning. This agrees with Xiaole (2009) who based socio-pragmatics competence on the appropriate usage of language in accordance with context and the ability to understand the social conventions that govern communication.

Findings also showed that coinages picked up from newspapers, texts and discussions were considered to be more acceptable than others. Such coinages include those that are reflective of the Nigerian socio-political system such as ‘godfatherism’, ‘killer herdsmen’, ‘fire brigade approach’, ‘national cake’, ‘budget padding’. These have become regular phenomena in the Nigerian political system and have therefore earned a place in the NE domain. This class of coinages was noticed to have been rated as highly acceptable by the most educated of the respondents (that is, academics, TV/radio announcers, bankers). Olaniyi (2014) says that the social features of Educated NE and its coinages, for instance are traceable to the ascribed sociolinguistic elements which include education, status, specialization and fluency as acquired individual characteristics. This perhaps explains why
this category of coinages enjoyed high ratings of acceptability by the most educated of the respondents.

Again, findings revealed that majority of the coinages picked up from random conversations and discussions occur more often in informal communication. Majority of them were marked as acceptable and intelligible by mostly students. This implies that while they may be locally intelligible, they lack international intelligibility as highly educated Nigerians shy away from them. Some of them include ‘arangee’, ‘bunkee’, ‘aso-ebi’, ‘runs-girl’. Certain coinages also reflect experiences that are unique to us such as ‘bush meat’, ‘yam flour’, ‘black soap’. These experiences do not exist with the native speakers, hence the need to invent new words to convey and express them. This supports the view of Effiong (2011), that Nigerians coin words and expressions which may not have the same meanings in native-English usage. It explains the creativity observed in EL users in Nigeria. Hence, they were considered to be both acceptable and intelligible.

Interestingly, findings revealed that coinages based on meaning broadening, narrowing and total shift had the lowest acceptability rating by all the groups of respondents however, it had the highest intelligibility rating. It was observed to have received high acceptability ratings by the least educated of the respondents.

The findings of the study showed that coinages based on inappropriate insertion of preposition were favoured by all groups of respondents as acceptable and intelligible. This buttresses Okoro’s view that certain coinages do not impair intelligibility to the native speaker of English, though he would not use them. Lexical coinages peculiar to NE were equally noticed to have been favoured across board but was least favoured amongst the academics. Again, findings indicated that all classes of coinages were considered intelligible. It was equally observed that the NE coinages that enjoyed high acceptability ratings equally enjoyed high intelligibility ratings.

Findings also indicated that peculiar Nigerian English variants of native speaker idioms received high ratings as acceptable and intelligible. An English idiom for instance, would say ‘one swallow does not a summer make’ but Nigerians will prefer ‘a tree cannot make a forest’. To Nigerians, tree and forest are more relatable and reflective of the Nigerian environment.
It was observed that most NE coinages reflected values shared by the speech community. Generally, this implies that the culture of a given society influences lexical choice in a speech community.

Conclusion
This study has dealt with the various NE coinages which are conditioned by the Nigerian socio-cultural environment. Through this study, a basic and important factor responsible for these innovations has been identified to be the fact that the Nigerian culture contrasts in most aspects with that of native speakers. The Nigerian speakers of English most naturally inject the Nigerian socio-cultural features into their English usage, thus developing NE coinages which are peculiar to the Nigerian culture. This is because the various cultural and socio-linguistic thought of Nigerians cannot be adequately expressed in the standard form of the English language resulting in different lexical derivations, innovations and coinages to suit the situation and context of usage of the language.

These coinages, birthed from the need to adequately express the uniqueness of the Nigerian experience and creativity have indeed come to stay. However, Nigerians are encouraged to adopt the forms which are considered standard to enable them to communicate intelligibly and effectively with speakers of English who do not have knowledge of the Nigerian culture.

Recommendations
Based on the foregoing conclusion, it is recommended that:
* The Nigerian English and its coinages should have agreed norms and conventions that can be used as a model for education and public use while maintaining Standard British English usage in grammar and pronunciation.
* Nigerian English and coinages should be codified and represented in dictionaries and grammars for standardisation and educational purposes.
References