Original Research Article

Language Use in Exogamous Marriages in South-west Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined language use of the exogamous families in Southwestern Nigeria in order to find out the language choice in a range of domains (formal and non-formal) and with different speech partners. The theoretical framework adopted for this study is Fishman's (1972) Domain Analysis. Language use questionnaire was structured and administered to these families. The population of the study included nine hundred (900) respondents drawn from twelve (12) Local Governments of South-western Nigeria and the respondents were strictly from exogamous families. Data collected were analysed using statistical tool. The findings revealed that English language is the most used language among the exogamous marriage families in South-Western Nigeria in both formal and non-formal domains. The study also revealed that the children of all the exogamous marriage families have language socialization as they acquired at least one of the languages spoken by their parents easily, but lack the use of it in everyday dialogue rather they prefer to use English. This is because, they lack balance bilingualism or 'multilingualism. The researchers recommended that comparable research could be conducted on exogamous couples living in both rural and urban communities in order to enrich the knowledge of the sociolinguistic findings and better assessment.
Keywords: Language Use, Language Maintenance, Domain Analysis, Exogamous, Marriages.

1. INTRODUCTION

The marriage institution is a common phenomenon present in every society; however, there are difficulties defining the concept marriage. This difficulty largely arises from the variations of marriage arrangements that have been witnessed in different societies (Herbert and Hans-Georg, 2010). A more acceptable definition of marriage was by Ingiabuna, E.T, Olumati, J.C and Sele A.P (2003) defined marriage as the socially approved union of a sexual cohabiting pair called husband and wife through which the off springs derive their legitimacy. However, in Nigeria, marriage remains a union of two consenting adults (male and female) but largely with the express support and approval of the immediate families of the individuals involved in the relationship.

Every human group establishes norms to govern who can marry whom. Although these norms vary from culture to culture, all societies use family and marriage to establish patterns of mate selection, descent, inheritance, and authority. Most societies demand endogamy, the practice of marrying someone within one's own group. In contrast, norms of exogamy specify that people may marry outside their group. However, in today's contemporary world, where pop-culture is boosted by technology and the mass media (as well as education), exogamous marriages are gaining momentum. The continuous increase of exogamous marriages worldwide reveals that many people look at mixed marriages positively (Herbert and Hans-Georg 2010). However, the acceptance of mixed marriages in many countries has also brought negative effects on a community's language and culture. Holmes (2008) argues that such marriages accelerate language shift and results in displacement of the mother tongue of either the husband or the wife. In many instances, one of the two languages is usually abandoned by younger members of the family. The impact of exogamous marriages on language shift is crucial because language shift starts at home. Since offspring of exogamous marriages have parents with different sets of cultural values and languages, such children are interesting subjects for this research.

In Nigeria, the practice of exogamous marriages is now on a steady rise due mainly to increasing urbanization, social mobility and religious activities. Increased interethnic contacts have led to a decline of mono-ethnic marriages. In spite of the growing appeal of

exogamous marriages in the country, the linguistic consequences of such marriages as well as their effects on language acquisition patterns of children have hardly been investigated (Herbert and Hans-Georg 2010).

A number of works have identified the family as a factor in language maintenance and shift such as: Slavik (2001), Kouritzin (2000), Yamamoto (2001), Okita (2001), Viikberg (2002), Clyne (2003), Yagmur and Akinci (2003), Lawson and Sachdev (2004), Myers-Scotton (2006), Schüpbach (2006), Karahan (2007), Gathercole (2007), Morris and Jones (2007), Holmes (2008), Schwartz (2008), Brown (2008), Zhang and Slaughter-Defoe (2009), Garrett (2010), Rasinger (2010), Baker (2011), Spolsky (2012), Mejia (2014), Pebriyati (2014), Qawar and Dweik (2015), Torsh (2020), among others. The role of exogamous marriages in language shift and maintenance has generally been under-researched. Research on the effects of exogamous marriages on language shift and maintenance in Nigeria are practically non-existent. This research therefore focuses on families in which the parents have different mother tongues so as to find out the language use in such family, to be able to establish to which degree those parents pass on their languages to their children. It is a research work on the trends of language use among mixed language households in south west Nigeria. The study opens up relatively new grounds in terms of area and population samples, thus subsequently filling up a gap in the study of general phenomenon of language use.

1.2 Language Use

Language use is all about applying rules that guide production of utterances in a given language such that it is appropriate to a given context. The use of appropriate code helps communication, thus, ensuring understanding between interlocutors. Using correct acceptable forms not only holds the society but makes us acknowledge the fact that language belongs to no one and so must be respected. Communication is affected adversely when the interlocutors are less concerned about how they pass on messages but are only bothered about getting the ideas through. It is important to note that being careful about what we say really enhances communication. In the words of Simon (1989: 80), we think in words, we conceptualize in words, we work in and out our problems inwardly with words and using them correctly is comparable to a craftsman treating his tools with care and keeping his materials in good shape.

Multilingual societies inevitably face conflict over language choice. In fact, many researchers have conducted studies on the patterns of language choice made by the group of speakers and also language use in bilingual communities. For instance, the Nigerian speech community is made up of over 250 ethnic groups with a conservative estimate of 521 languages (Lewis *et al.,* 2013). Asemota (2015), however, says 9 of these languages have gone into extinction. It is therefore a multilingual and multicultural speech community whereby diverse languages and customs compete. It is also a speech community whereby, apart from the indigenous languages, foreign languages also compete with other languages and cultures. Thus, when pursuing social goals, speakers can choose between languages across different settings.

Romaine (1994) observes that language choice is not arbitrary and not all speech communities are organized in the same way. Through the selection of one language over another or one variety of the same language over another speakers display what may be called "acts of identity", choosing the groups with whom they want to identify. There are some common motivations for such choices in different societies. The first step in understanding what choices are available is to gain some ideas of what languages or varieties are available to the speakers, in particular social contexts. The context in this case may be thought of in its widest sense as the variety made available either officially or unofficially.

Trudgill (2000:103) commenting on language and context states that, language varies not only according to the social characteristics of the speaker (such as his social class, ethnic group, age and sex) but also according to the social context in which he finds himself. The same speaker uses different language or varieties in different situations for different purposes. He urges further that many social factors can come into play in controlling which variety from this verbal repertoire is actually to be used on a particular occasion. For example, if a speaker is talking to the people he works with about their work, his language is likely to be rather different from that he will use at home with his family members.

Since this study has to do with marriage between parents who have different language background, it should be pointed out that neither the mother's native language nor the father's native language dominates the children. The children grow up choosing which language to identify with based on the surrounding factors and circumstances. According to Spolsky (2012), those factors include: domain, social context, social class, geographical origin, ethnicity, age, gender, education, first language, interlocutors and topic.

1.2.1 Exogamous Marriages and Language use

Pauwels (1985) examined patterns of language used by Dutch-born migrants in Australia. Her study involved three different marriage forms: intra-ethnic between two Dutch-born partners (endogamy), inter-ethnic between Dutch and Anglo-Australian partners (exogamy) followed by inter-ethnic marriage between Dutch and non-Anglo-Australian partners (exogamy). Pauwels found that both inter-ethnic marriage types strongly affect the pattern of language use in a family, especially the language use of the Dutch spouse and the couple's children, in a negative way for Dutch maintenance. Pauwels (1985:54) claims that the children

in these inter-ethnic families are almost completely monolingual in English and that the language of their parents is neither understood nor spoken by them.

David (2003), in her study on the language choice of some Sino-Indian Malaysians in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, found out that the language choice depended on the domains and the different speech partners. According to David, Sino-Indians are the offspring of marriages between Indians and Chinese. She reported that the findings reveal that language choice in those families is influenced by factors such as age, domains of communication, attitude towards the language, and identity. Age is an important factor in language choice, particularly in the home domain. She mentioned that the older Sino-Indian speakers are bilingual in English and Malay; the middle-aged speakers are trilingual and speak more in English and some Tamil and Chinese. However, she posits that though the younger speakers are multilingual but the use of English is more favourable among this younger generation.

Arumugan (1990), in her study of the language choice of Sino-Indian children, found that children are exposed to languages either Tamil or Chinese dialects or both languages from the home domain, such as parents, cousins and grandparents. She also made a conclusion that, Sino-Indian children have the most advantage when it comes to languages as they can either use the languages of one or both their parents. However, in all cases the children use both the national and international languages of school. Nadarajan (1994) cited in David (2003:218) who has done a study of five Sino-Indian families revealed that cultural markers (such as language) are determined by the spouses' ethnic rootedness. It is clear in the case of Sino-Indian families, the choice of either Tamil or Cantonese (both are Chinese dialects) or both were dependent on the following factors such as accommodation of family members, friends and practice of cultural accommodation.

1.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this research is the domain theory by Fishman (1972/2000). This theory on language has provided the foundation to the study of language use. Domain refers to the concept that each language or variety of language is assigned to particular function or space and particular participants in the society, such as language used in the work domain, family domain or religious domain, etc. (Spolsky, 2012; Weinreich, 1953). Fishman's conception of "domain" which is a constellation of factors of setting, topic and participants of an interaction has provided the framework for description of language choice patterns of communities and for understanding the social structure governing societal bilingualism.

1.4 Statement of the Problem

Exogamous marriage refers to the custom or act of marrying a person who belongs to another tribe, clan, or similar social unit. The practice of exogamous marriages is now on a steady rise in Nigeria due mainly to increasing urbanization, social mobility and religious activities. Increased interethnic contacts have led to a decline of mono-ethnic marriages. In spite of the growing appeal of exogamous marriages in the country, the linguistic consequences of such marriages as well as their effects on language acquisition patterns of children have hardly been investigated. The role of exogamous marriages in language shift and maintenance has generally been under-researched. Research on the effects of exogamous marriages on language shift and maintenance in West Africa are practically non-existent. The research therefore focuses on families in which the parents have different mother tongues so as to find out the degree to which those parents pass on their languages to their children. It is a research work on the trends of language use among mixed language households in south west Nigeria. The study opens up relatively new grounds in terms of area and population samples, thus subsequently filling up a gap in the study of general phenomenon of language use.

1.5 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the pattern of language use in exogamous marriages in Southwestern Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:
  i. identify the languages in use in exogamous marriages in Southwestern Nigeria
  ii. explore the prospects of exogamous marriages in Nigeria with a view to ascertaining the language use in exogamous marriage

2. METHODOLOGY
2.1 Research Design

This study employed descriptive survey design. The adoption of the descriptive design is premised on the fact that it is effective when a research problem has received little or no empirical attention or when a research focuses on gaining understanding of a phenomenon (Cuthill 2002, Taylor *et al*., 2002). As the language use in exogamous marriages in south-western Nigeria has little or no foundation information, the descriptive technique is more pertinent to the aim and objectives of this study. Again the descriptive design was adopted in this work as there was need to collect specific data from subsets of a research population in order to get relevant and additional facts that would validate the generalization of inferences on the larger population. This survey involved field work to elicit information, facts and opinion from respondents. The research instrument used for data collection was questionnaire and the data collected was analysed using statistical tools.

2.2 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sampling population of the study consists of nine hundred (900) respondents drawn from twelve (12) Local Governments of Southwestern Nigeria. Table 1 shows the population distribution of respondents in Southwestern Nigeria.

Table 1: Population distribution of Respondents in Southwestern Nigeria

State	Town	No. of Questionnaires
Lagos	Kosofe	75
	Ikorodu	75
Oyo	Ibadan North	75
	Egbeda	75
Osun	Ife Central	75
	Ejigbo	75
Ogun	Abeokuta South	75
	Ijebu North	75
Ondo	Akure South	75
	Owo	75
Ekiti	Ikere	75
	Ado-Ekiti	75

Source: Research Computation

2.3 Profile of Participants

There are two categories of participants in this study; the children and the parents (mothers and fathers). These participants were drawn from three hundred (300) exogamous families living in southwestern Nigeria. For the purpose of clarification to differentiate between the children and the parents, the participants were categorized into two groups. The children were in group one while the parents were in group two. Group one consists of 155 females and 145 males. The participants are teens drawn from upper secondary school classes while group two consists of 600 parents, that is, 300 mothers and 300 fathers respectively. The age distribution of the participants are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 respectively while Figure 4 shows the gender distribution of the children participants.
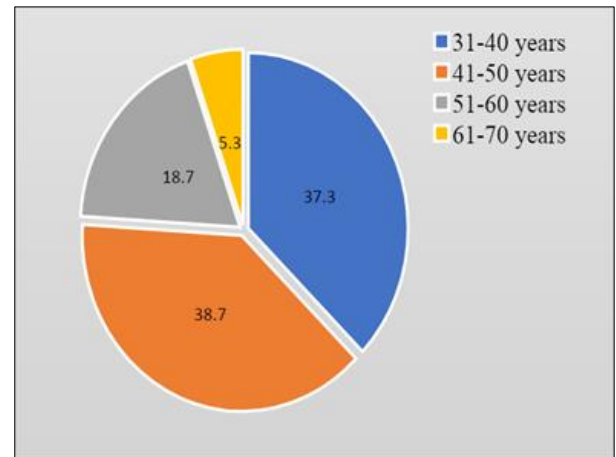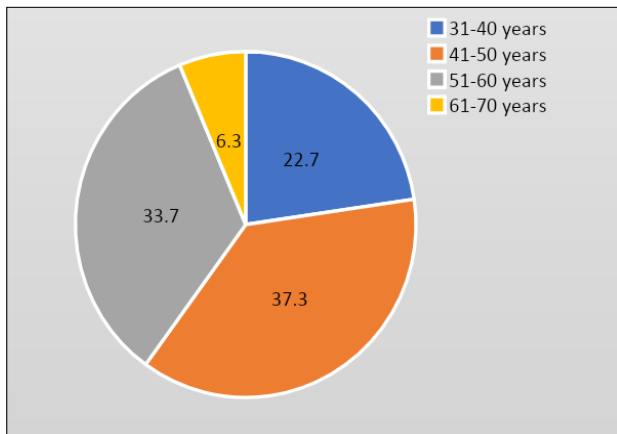

Figure 2: Age Distribution of the Mother
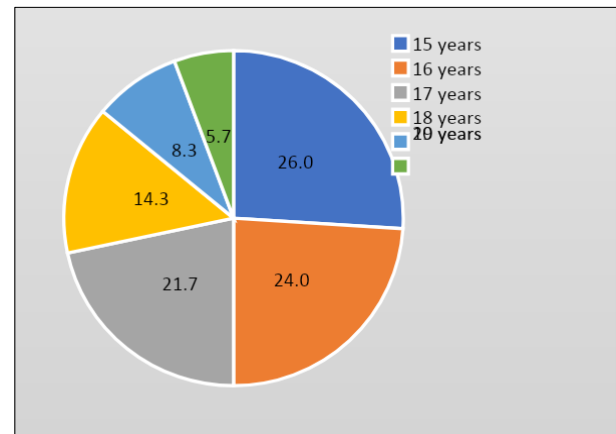

Figure 1: Age Distribution of the Father

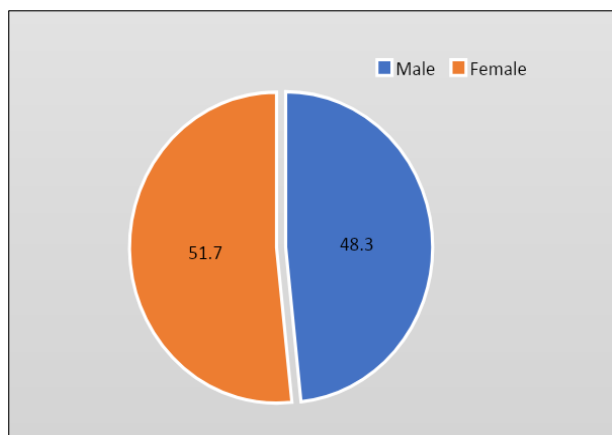**Figure 3: Age Distribution of the Children**

Figure 4: Gender Distribution of the Children

2.4 The Selected Domain

The selected domains are non-formal domains and formal domains. The non-formal domain consists of the family domain, friendship domain and neighbourhood domain. The family domain focuses on both children and parents' frequency of language use with family members such as parents, siblings, grandparents and other relatives. The formal domain consists of school domain and mass media domain.

Because children spend most of their time in school and this could influence their choice of language use, therefore, children were asked about the language use in school domain especially while speaking with the school principal, teachers, all other members of staff and mates. Questions on mass media domain have to do with the choice of language used in newspapers, magazines, comics, television, radio and other communication networks. In Nigeria, especially the Southwestern Nigeria, this domain is heavily dominated by the official language (English language) and Yoruba language. This domain was used by the researcher to survey the language choice and patterns of language use among the participants. In the entertainment domain, the participants were asked to indicate their language preference for the television programmes and songs. As for the reading domain, the participants were asked to indicate the language they prefer while reading materials such as newspaper, magazine, comics and the internet technology which includes: blogs, e-mails and the use of SMS (Short Messaging System).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
3.1 Results
The results are presented in Tables 2 to 10 respectively.

Table 2: Marriage Profile of the Participants

| | | **Father Ethnic Group** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
		Yoruba	Hausa	Ibo	Calabar	Delta	Edo	Ibibio	Ijaw	Isoko	Kogi	Rivers	Tapa	Urhobo	Total
Mother Ethnic Group	Yoruba	0	29	51	2	8	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	**99**
	Hausa	45	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**56**
	Ibo	88	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**95**
	Benue	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Calabar	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Delta	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**10**
	Ebira	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Edo	15	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**20**
	Efik	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Tsekiri	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Fulani	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Ijaw	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Isan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	**4**
	Kogi	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Tiv	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Urhobo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
	Uromi	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
	Total	**163**	**36**	**74**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**6**	**300**

Table 3: Percentages of Language Use in Non-Formal Domain by Fathers

Language	Native			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always
Your Father	0.8	9.3	89.9	28.9	26.1	45.0	19.2	61.7	19.2	57.7	3.8	38.5
Your Mother	2.3	13.3	84.5	31.0	25.0	44.0	19.4	56.6	24.0	54.2	4.2	41.7
Spouse's Father	63.1	12.7	24.2	44.0	31.3	24.7	4.4	22.9	72.7	60.7	35.7	3.6
Spouse's Mother	61.0	17.6	21.4	45.8	34.2	20.0	5.1	21.7	73.2	56.7	30.0	13.3
Daughter(s)	11.1	64.3	24.7	19.3	60.2	20.5	1.5	19.5	79.0	51.9	44.4	3.7
Son(s)	12.2	59.9	27.8	17.0	62.4	20.6	0.7	18.6	80.7	55.6	40.7	3.7
Your Brother(s)	3.5	29.8	66.7	21.7	34.8	43.5	10.3	63.8	25.9	80.0	20.0	0.0
Your Sister(s)	7.1	26.8	66.1	23.9	34.8	41.3	8.8	64.9	26.3	60.0	20.0	20.0
Spouse's Brother(s)	66.7	12.8	20.5	40.0	45.0	15.0	3.2	25.8	71.0	0.0	75.0	25.0
Spouse's Sister(s)	65.9	14.6	19.5	43.6	41.0	15.4	1.6	27.4	71.0	25.0	50.0	25.0
Your Relative	6.1	22.9	71.0	24.3	40.8	34.9	8.8	50.7	40.5	67.9	3.6	28.6
Spouse's Relative	65.0	15.3	19.7	51.4	35.4	13.2	2.9	17.9	79.2	60.0	28.0	12.0
Close Friend(s)	13.0	48.0	39.0	12.7	58.6	28.7	3.4	29.7	66.9	50.0	34.6	15.4
Colleagues	34.6	43.8	21.6	20.2	61.8	18.0	2.4	16.0	81.5	61.5	34.6	3.8
Neighbours	51.9	27.8	20.4	15.9	59.7	24.4	2.3	28.9	68.8	51.9	33.3	14.8
Joking	20.7	50.6	28.7	16.5	55.7	27.8	3.3	29.1	67.6	52.0	44.0	4.0
Scold children	25.3	43.8	30.9	23.6	42.9	33.5	3.3	24.4	72.3	54.2	33.3	12.5
Prayers	20.3	41.6	38.1	19.3	43.4	37.3	2.6	24.5	72.9	61.5	26.9	11.5

Table 4: Percentages of Language Use in Non-Formal Domain by Mothers

Language	Native			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always
Your Father	4.2	13.4	82.4	23.4	20.3	56.3	17.3	42.7	40.0	46.9	12.5	40.6
Your Mother	5.2	17.5	77.3	32.0	15.3	52.7	18.0	45.3	36.6	32.1	32.1	35.7
Spouse's Father	39.0	21.2	39.8	38.7	39.6	21.7	2.3	22.0	75.7	33.3	42.4	24.2
Spouse's Mother	40.8	26.7	32.5	35.8	35.8	28.3	4.8	21.4	73.8	33.3	42.4	24.2
Daughter(s)	14.4	48.2	37.4	23.5	50.8	25.8	2.8	19.3	77.9	56.0	20.0	24.0
Son(s)	16.6	47.7	35.7	22.8	50.4	26.8	2.4	19.8	77.7	60.9	13.0	26.1
Your Brother(s)	4.4	26.7	68.9	29.0	25.8	45.2	10.9	45.7	43.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Your Sister(s)	6.7	28.9	64.4	25.0	28.1	46.9	8.7	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.0	100.0
Spouse's Brother(s)	32.1	25.0	42.9	30.0	40.0	30.0	10.5	26.3	63.2	33.3	66.7	0.0
Spouse's Sister(s)	35.7	28.6	35.7	33.3	23.8	42.9	2.6	30.8	66.7	33.3	66.7	0.0
Your Relative	8.2	25.6	66.2	28.1	36.3	35.6	15.7	35.4	49.0	58.3	16.7	25.0
Spouse's Relative	42.5	26.7	30.8	39.4	38.5	22.0	5.8	21.5	72.7	38.5	38.5	23.1
Close Friend(s)	29.6	35.8	34.6	17.4	52.2	30.4	2.3	24.7	73.0	33.3	37.5	29.2
Colleagues	40.4	35.5	24.1	25.3	51.4	23.3	2.3	17.7	80.0	54.2	25.0	20.8
Neighbours	52.5	23.7	23.7	19.2	49.7	31.1	5.2	25.5	69.3	59.3	22.2	18.5
Joking	28.4	43.2	28.4	20.3	50.0	29.7	3.2	23.3	73.5	50.0	29.2	20.8
Scold children	24.4	32.9	42.7	32.8	35.1	32.1	4.3	21.7	73.9	52.2	30.4	17.4
Prayers	22.0	40.1	37.9	27.7	42.3	29.9	4.3	21.1	74.6	52.4	23.8	23.8

Table 5: Percentages of Language Use in Non-Formal Domain by Children

Language	Father's Language			Mother's Language			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always	Never	Sometimes	Always
Grandfather (Father's side)	6.0	62.8	31.2	87.8	8.2	4.1	29.2	46.9	23.9	25.0	50.5	24.5	44.4	41.7	13.9
Grandmother (Father's side)	38.7	33.1	28.2	49.8	34.0	16.3	31.9	40.8	27.3	24.0	55.8	20.2	31.6	52.6	15.8
Grandfather (Mother's side)	34.2	56.8	9.0	50.2	27.3	22.5	38.4	43.9	17.7	11.3	49.1	39.6	30.2	55.8	14.0
Grandmother (Mother's side)	72.3	21.1	6.6	26.9	45.7	27.4	43.9	36.9	19.2	10.1	52.1	37.8	23.3	58.1	18.6
Father	9.3	69.5	21.2	67.9	26.4	5.7	25.1	55.7	19.2	4.2	41.0	54.8	29.5	61.4	9.1
Mother	52.8	37.4	9.8	33.0	49.6	17.4	31.6	49.0	19.4	4.0	44.2	51.8	28.9	62.2	8.9
Brother(s)	35.4	47.4	17.2	49.4	43.7	6.9	32.4	54.3	13.3	1.9	31.7	66.4	35.0	55.0	10.0
Sister(s)	33.8	47.0	19.2	52.0	41.0	6.9	32.0	52.6	15.5	3.0	28.0	68.9	40.0	50.0	10.0
Cousin(s) (Father's side)	39.4	39.4	21.3	79.3	12.8	7.8	52.4	27.8	19.8	3.6	30.9	65.5	66.7	25.0	8.3
Cousin(s) (Mother's side)	68.8	24.4	6.8	46.9	37.8	15.3	47.3	35.3	17.4	4.3	28.9	66.8	52.5	42.5	5.0
Uncle(s) (Father's side)	38.1	39.4	22.5	75.4	15.3	9.3	48.2	31.5	20.3	4.8	34.5	60.6	65.0	27.5	7.5
Auntie(s) (Father's side)	42.4	34.6	23.0	70.9	20.9	8.2	42.6	38.2	19.1	4.7	34.9	60.4	61.9	31.0	7.1
Uncle(s) (Mother's side)	64.8	23.6	11.5	54.0	29.3	16.7	48.6	36.1	15.3	5.2	29.9	64.9	55.0	32.5	12.5
Auntie(s) (Mother's side)	75.7	17.1	7.2	48.8	31.2	20.0	48.1	38.8	13.1	5.0	29.3	65.6	46.3	43.9	9.8
Close Friend(s)	39.4	41.3	19.2	62.2	35.1	2.7	31.0	49.6	19.5	1.8	22.0	76.2	22.7	63.6	13.6
Neighbours	66.1	21.8	12.1	72.0	24.2	3.8	39.1	45.0	15.8	6.5	20.3	73.2	62.9	31.4	5.7
Gossip	57.2	31.4	11.3	74.2	21.1	4.6	32.9	52.3	14.9	4.8	22.9	72.3	55.6	30.6	13.9
Joking	54.9	35.4	9.7	71.0	24.5	4.5	29.7	54.1	16.2	6.0	18.8	75.2	57.1	34.3	8.6
Ask for help	48.2	41.1	10.7	65.8	29.1	5.0	24.4	58.7	16.9	3.9	21.5	74.6	50.0	44.1	5.9
Apologise	48.7	39.6	11.7	66.2	28.8	5.1	24.3	59.2	16.5	4.4	22.9	72.7	61.3	32.3	6.5
Ask for directions	51.3	38.2	10.6	71.1	24.2	4.6	28.5	55.6	15.9	5.4	24.5	70.1	61.3	32.3	6.5
Tease someone	57.9	33.8	8.2	68.4	29.1	2.6	31.2	56.4	12.4	4.3	24.9	70.8	66.7	27.3	6.1
Prayers	55.0	39.0	6.0	75.3	21.7	3.0	32.2	56.4	11.4	4.4	20.6	75.0	57.1	34.3	8.6

Table 6: Percentages of Language Use in Formal Domain by Fathers

Language	Native			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time
Newspaper	70.7	15.6	13.6	63.8	25.5	10.6	4.2	4.9	90.9	74.1	18.5	7.4
Novels	71.5	17.4	11.1	70.3	15.9	13.8	3.9	3.9	92.2	77.8	18.5	3.7
Magazines	72.5	16.9	10.6	70.2	20.6	9.2	4.5	4.5	91.0	81.5	14.8	3.7
Books	64.6	23.1	12.2	57.1	35.7	7.1	3.6	5.7	90.7	74.1	22.2	3.7
Radio programme	40.0	35.9	24.1	37.4	49.0	13.6	2.5	6.2	91.3	59.3	33.3	7.4
Television programme	41.1	34.2	24.7	31.3	51.3	17.3	2.5	9.7	87.8	66.7	25.9	7.4
Songs	30.9	30.3	38.8	31.3	44.7	24.0	4.0	10.4	85.6	63.0	29.6	7.4
SMS	66.4	21.7	11.9	67.9	22.1	10.0	3.8	5.5	90.7	77.8	18.5	3.7
Internet Chatting	75.5	15.4	9.1	71.6	21.3	7.1	4.2	3.5	92.3	88.9	11.1	0.0
Blogs	78.3	13.3	8.4	76.1	18.1	5.8	3.1	7.3	89.5	88.9	11.1	0.0
E-MAILS	84.7	8.3	6.9	79.0	13.8	7.2	4.2	4.2	91.6	92.6	7.4	0.0
Banking	81.9	9.0	9.0	77.1	12.1	10.7	3.1	5.2	91.6	88.9	11.1	0.0

Table 7: Percentages of Language Use in Formal Domain by Mothers

Language	Native			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time
Newspaper	61.3	14.3	24.4	57.6	17.8	24.6	6.0	9.2	84.9	77.3	13.6	9.1
Novels	73.9	11.3	14.8	64.0	9.6	26.3	5.7	9.3	85.1	77.3	13.6	9.1
Magazines	63.6	16.1	20.3	54.9	18.6	26.5	6.5	11.2	82.4	77.3	9.1	13.6
Books	63.3	19.2	17.5	50.4	23.5	26.1	5.6	10.2	84.2	77.3	13.6	9.1
Radio programme	41.2	33.8	25.0	31.5	41.8	26.7	8.4	13.0	78.6	48.6	42.9	8.6
Television programme	43.7	33.3	23.0	31.5	43.4	25.2	5.2	14.6	80.1	50.0	41.2	8.8
Songs	41.7	28.0	30.3	27.0	36.9	36.2	4.1	18.6	77.3	48.6	40.0	11.4
SMS	55.2	20.8	24.0	54.8	23.4	21.8	5.3	11.6	83.1	77.3	9.1	13.6
Internet Chatting	63.8	19.7	16.5	57.4	18.3	24.3	4.3	8.3	87.3	78.3	8.7	13.0
Blogs	67.2	10.4	22.4	63.7	8.0	28.3	7.6	8.3	84.1	78.3	8.7	13.0
E-MAILS	70.9	11.1	17.9	66.7	11.7	21.6	7.7	5.6	86.6	78.3	8.7	13.0
Banking	70.6	11.8	17.6	63.7	11.5	24.8	5.7	7.1	87.2	78.3	8.7	13.0

Table 8: Percentages of Language Use in Formal Domain by Children

Language	Father's Language			Mother's Language			Yoruba			English			Others		
	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time
Schoolmates	56.6	27.7	15.7	71.1	26.3	2.6	49.0	37.8	13.3	1.2	13.3	85.5	52.4	33.3	14.3
School Principal	79.5	17.9	2.6	81.9	15.3	2.8	73.3	24.4	2.3	2.9	12.9	84.2	81.0	4.8	14.3
Teachers	79.2	19.5	1.3	90.1	8.5	1.4	64.0	31.4	4.7	1.8	12.9	85.4	90.0	10.0	0.0
Newspaper	55.2	34.5	10.3	70.9	18.4	10.8	46.2	39.9	14.0	16.1	4.7	79.2	39.1	39.1	21.7
Novels	64.6	22.2	13.2	72.8	15.2	11.9	56.9	27.0	16.1	15.4	5.4	79.3	52.4	33.3	14.3
Magazines	70.1	18.4	11.6	77.4	14.2	8.4	65.0	21.2	13.9	15.7	5.0	79.3	57.1	28.6	14.3
Comics	77.1	9.7	13.2	78.8	11.5	9.6	69.5	14.2	16.3	16.1	5.4	78.6	61.9	23.8	14.3
Radio programme	52.1	33.6	14.4	62.3	29.9	7.8	49.7	37.1	13.2	16.3	10.5	73.2	30.0	50.0	20.0
Television programme	37.7	54.8	7.5	63.9	30.3	5.8	34.0	54.6	11.3	15.5	11.2	73.3	27.3	59.1	13.6
Songs	29.3	61.2	9.5	58.1	35.5	6.5	30.9	58.4	10.7	15.6	10.9	73.5	28.6	57.1	14.3
SMS	68.8	18.8	12.5	75.2	14.0	10.8	69.8	17.3	12.9	15.6	5.2	79.2	55.0	30.0	15.0
Internet Chatting	63.6	25.9	10.5	74.2	14.8	11.0	66.7	20.3	13.0	14.7	7.9	77.4	47.6	38.1	14.3
Blogs	66.2	22.1	11.7	77.8	12.4	9.8	71.9	14.4	13.7	15.1	6.6	78.3	50.0	35.0	15.0
E-MAILS	70.3	15.9	13.8	77.8	9.2	13.1	76.3	10.1	13.7	14.8	3.3	81.9	57.1	28.6	14.3
Banking	65.7	18.9	15.4	72.9	14.2	12.9	67.1	16.4	16.4	14.5	4.3	81.2	36.8	36.8	26.3

4.2. DISCUSSION

The languages in use in the exogamous marriages under study cover issues that revolve around language use between couples, the preferred language use of exogenous couple's children in interactions in the formal and non-formal domains, observing whether the families have a family language policy. To ascertain the pattern of language use, the questionnaires for this research administered questions that undoubtedly reveal a generic language use model couples of exogenous marriage in the research area exhibit.

A critical analysis of the obtained dataset revealed that English language is the most use language among the exogamous marriage families in South-Western Nigeria in both formal and non-formal domains as can be seen in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively. Though, native language is used in conversation to a large extent among couples, it is still accompanied with

English language. In other words, couples switch and mix languages in conversations between themselves. Among the native languages spoken, Yoruba language is the most used. The choice of Yoruba as the primary ethnic, native and first language of use in the exogamous marriage families in South-Western Nigeria is based largely on the fact that the spoken language in the couples' environment is Yoruba language. Likewise, the fact that a larger percentage (87.3%) of the couples is married to a Yoruba partner as shown in Table 2 cannot be jettisoned, leaving us with the conclusion that the non-Yoruba partner has undergone an accommodation process of accepting Yoruba language.

Consequently, we notice the influence of English language on the multilingual children who are products of these exogamous marriages. The children of all the exogamous marriage families have language socialization as they acquired at least one of the languages spoken by their parents easily, but lack the use of it in everyday dialogue rather they prefer to use English. This is because, they lack what Spolsky (2004) called "balance bilingualism or 'multilingualism. The children as bilinguals prefer English and use it more because of its social acceptance and also the dominant language in the school domain and this can be seen in Table 7 where their language of communication recorded higher percentage of 85.5, 84.2 and 85.5 for English language while speaking with schoolmates, school principal and teachers respectively. Therefore, the children's bilingual or multilingual competence is the co-ordinate type.

The findings revealed that children in these exogenous marriages prefer the use of English to their respective parents' languages as a larger percentage of them recognised English language as their first language. This could be as a result of the fact that they have been taught using English language at home even before they were enrolled in schools. Also, this is so because almost all the parents agreed to the fact that the general language use with the children at home is English as shown in Tables 3 and 4 where the percentages of English language use with daughters and sons are 79 and 80.7% by fathers and 77.9 and 77.7% by mothers. Though they accompany it with respective native languages, careful observations revealed that the couples use more of English with children than the native languages in the family. More often than not, the mother tongue is only used in instances when either of the parents wants to express emotional feelings such as scolding their children. Therefore, the use of English by the parents with the children has influenced the children to converse in English among themselves. However, the few times the parents speak either of the family's mother tongues to

them meet with English response from the children. The family location or place of residence has greater influence on the choice of language spoken as we see that Yoruba is well spoken by most participants in this survey study as shown in Tables 3 to 8. Location goes hand in hand with mode of communication of a people/family. The setting which is expressed by the participant's domain is another speech situation that influences language choice in a family.

As revealed in this research, it appears that English has taken priority as the first language among the exogamous families in this study especially with the children they hardly ever use their parents' mother tongues in conversation even if they have a level of proficiency in it. They also converse among themselves in English and this is a pointer to fact that their parents' mother tongues in the family might be shifting. Likewise, couples in the exogamous marriages are assumed not to speak and understand each other's language, the trend is however changing as at least one of the parents understand the other parent's language even if they do not both speak and understand each other's language. It is expected that family members of exogamous marriages make serious efforts at maintaining their mother tongues by passing on their native languages to their children through daily use and cultural activities since these languages form the basis of their heritage and background.

Future study should consider a random of exogamous marriages without bias to any region or group and find out if the same phenomenon is trendy. Meanwhile, this research was confined to men and women in exogamous marriages who live in the South Western Nigeria, a larger study that would include exogamous couples without boundaries should be carried out in order to come up with additional patterns of language acquisition and use in those homes throughout the country.

5.0 Declaration of Interest Statement
The research contributed to knowledge by providing information on the status of exogamous marriage in South Western Nigeria. It identified the pattern of language use in such homes through domain analysis and also established the effects that exogamous marriage has on the nation's languages. Future research should also consider working on a larger pool of participants to ground subsequent findings and conclusions as to the language choice and use in exogamous marriages. Also, comparable research could be conducted on exogamous couples living in both rural and urban communities in order to enrich the knowledge of the sociolinguistic findings and better assessment.

Appendix
SECTION A: CHILDREN
PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE
Please respond to the following statements by marking (√) in the boxes and kindly write the answers in the spaces that required to do so.

1. Age

15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

2. Gender

Male	
Female	

3. Which ethnic identification is used for the following persons:

	Yourself	Your father	Your mother
Yoruba			
Hausa			
Ibo			
Others: Please specify			

4. Parent's age

Father	
Mother	

5. Parental education

	Father	Mother
Nil		
Primary school		
Secondary school		
College/University		

6. Parent's occupation (please specify)

Father	
Mother	

7. What is the native language (mother tongue) of the following persons? (Native language: language being used generation by generation)

	Yourself	Your father	Your mother
Yoruba			
Ibo			
Hausa			
English			
Others: please specify			

8. What is the first language of the following persons: (first language: language exposed to from childhood)

	Yourself	Your father	Your mother
Yoruba			
Ibo			
Hausa			
English			
Others: please specify			

9. Please rate the level of proficiency in each of the following languages. Please circle the numbers according to the following Likert scale: 1= Not at all 2= Very little 3= Average 4= Good 5= Excellent

Language	Understanding	Read	Write	Speak
Yoruba	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Ibo	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Hausa	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
English	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Others: please specify i)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
ii)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

PART IIA: LANGUAGE USE IN NON-FORMAL DOMAIN

Please circle number only (scale 1 to 3) to indicate your answer to each question below. 3= Always 2= Sometimes 1= Never

Which language do you use for the following people / activities?

LANGUAGE PERSON/ACTIVITIES	FATHER'S LANGUAGE	MOTHER'S LANGUAGE	YORUBA	ENGLISH	OTHERS: Please specify
Grandparents (Father's side)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Grandparents (Mother's side)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Father	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Mother	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Brother(s)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Sister(s)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Relatives (Father's side)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Relatives (Mother's side)	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Neighbours	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Gossip	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Joking	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Ask for help	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Apologise	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Ask for directions	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Tease someone	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Prayers	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1

PART IIB: LANGUAGE USE IN FORMAL DOMAIN

Please circle one number only (scale 1 to 3) to indicate your answer to each question below.
3= Most of the time 2= Sometimes 3= Never

Which language do you use for the following activities?

LANGUAGE PERSON/ACTIVITIES	FATHER'S LANGUAGE	MOTHER'S LANGUAGE	YORUBA	ENGLISH	OTHERS: Please specify
Schoolmates	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
School Principle	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Teachers	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Other member of staff	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Newspaper	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Novels	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Magazines	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Comics	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Radio programme	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Television programme	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Songs	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
SMS	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Internet Chatting	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Blogs	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
E-MAILS	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Banking	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1

SECTION B: PARENT
PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE
Please respond to the following statements by marking (√) in the boxes and kindly write the answers in the spaces that required to do so.

1. Age

31 - 40	
41 - 50	
51 - 60	
61 - 70	

2. Gender

Male	
Female	

3. Which ethnic identification is used for the following persons:

	Yourself	Your spouse
Yoruba		
Hausa		
Ibo		
Others: Please specify i) ii)		

4. Level of education

	Yourself	Spouse
Nil		
Primary school		
Secondary school		
College/University		

5. Occupation (please specify)

Yourself	
Your spouse	

6. Please rate the level of proficiency in each of the following languages. Please circle the numbers according to the following Likert scale:

1= Not at all 2= Very little 3= Average 4= Good 5= Excellent

Language	Understanding	Read	Write	Speak
Yoruba	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Ibo	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Hausa	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
English	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Others: please specify i) ii)	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5

PART IIA: LANGUAGE USE IN NON-FORMAL DOMAIN
Please circle ONE number only (scale 1 to 3) to indicate your answer to each question below. If the question does not apply to you, please circle NA (Not Applicable)
3= Always 2= Sometimes 1= Never

Which language do you use for the following people / activities?

LANGUAGE PERSON/ ACTIVITIES	NATIVE LANGUAGE	YORUBA	ENGLISH	OTHERS: Please specify
Your Father	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Your Mother	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Spouse's Father	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Spouse's Mother	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Daughter(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Son(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Your Brother(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Your Sister(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Spouse's Brother(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Spouse's Sister(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Your Relative	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Spouse's Relative	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Close Friend(s)	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Colleagues	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Neighbours	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Joking	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Scold children	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA
Prayers	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA	3 2 1 NA

PART IIB: LANGUAGE USE IN FORMAL DOMAIN
Please circle one number only (scale 1 to 3) to indicate your answer to each question below.
3= Most of the time 2= Sometimes 3= Never

Which language do you use for the following activities?

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES	NATIVE LANGUAGE	YORUBA	ENGLISH	OTHERS: Please specify
Newspaper	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Novels	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Magazines	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Books	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Radio programme	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Television programme	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Songs	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
SMS	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Internet Chatting	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Blogs	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
E-MAILS	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1
Banking	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1

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