

**FRENCH AS A SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN NIGERIA:
PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN NIGERIA**

A. O. Faniran (PhD)

Department of English and Literary Studies
Lead City University, Ibadan, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

English had remained Nigeria's only official language until 14th December, 1996, when the late Nigerian military Head of State, General Sanni Abacha, declared, through his Minister of Education, that French would soon be introduced as a second official language in the country. This French language policy, which has remained only on paper since 1996, will now be implemented by the current Federal Government. This paper takes a look at the problems and the prospects of the policy as well as its implications for the future of the English Language in Nigeria.

Keywords: French, Official language, Prospects, implications, future of the English language in Nigeria, amalgamation.