

## **NIGERIAN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' ATTITUDE AND MOTIVATION TOWARDS ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING: CASE STUDY OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN GEOPOLITICAL ZONES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This work outlines the results of investigation carried out to examine motivation and attitudes of final year secondary schools students' in Nigeria towards the study of English language within a socio-educational framework. A modified 28-item questionnaire adapted from Gardner's (1985b) Attitude Motivation Test Battery and Williams, Burden & Lanvers (2002) was administered to a population of 587 respondents. The findings revealed that Nigerian students had moderately high positive attitudes toward learning English but were not motivated to study it. It also demonstrates that the learners were motivated to learn English for instrumental and integrative reasons, contrary to some researchers' belief that in ESL situations integrative motivation is the dominant one. It is therefore canvassed that language instructors, curriculum and instruction designers may need to devise language teaching programs, materials and teaching methods that generate the attitudes and motivation most conducive to the production of more successful learners of English language in this context.

**Keywords:** Motivation, Attitudes, Nigeria, Final year secondary school students.