Semantics of T-shirt Inscriptions Among Students of FCT College of Education Zuba, Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract
The choice of this topic "The Semantics of T-shirts Inscription Among Students of FCT College of Education Zuba, Abuja, Nigeria" is based on the fact that most students wear T-shirts without being conscious of what is written on their shirts nor having understanding of what the meanings or the interpretations are. It is in line with this that this study examines the semantic analysis of inscriptions on t-shirts worn by the students of FCT College of education, Zuba, Abuja. The data was sourced and collected by means of participants' observation in the main campus of the students understudy. In all, fifty (50) inscriptions were analysed and sub grouped into general, religious, solidarity, and philosophical inscriptions, and their meanings are analysed using the implicature theory and presupposition. The study found that these inscriptions do not only serve as medium of communication but also they serve as a medium of information, solidarity, identification, grouping/classification. The study also revealed that some of the inscription are used to warn, caution, encourage, preach, and advice.

Keywords: Language, Semantics, Inscription, Implicature, Presupposition,

Introduction

Semantics is the study of meaning. Semantic analysis in this study involves interpreting the meaning of selected short messages/write-ups written on T-shirts. Such inscriptions are sometimes used to pass information, message or as a means of communication. Gone are the days when only sports outfits carry inscriptions on them. Fashion has changed such that clothes now take us down memory lanes or make us aware of our environment. Clothes are not only

worn to cover one's nakedness; today, they are used to make statements, advertisements, pass information, etc.

Generally, inscription is any philosophical write-up attached to any item such as: textbooks, clothes (T-shirts), cars, sculptures etc. Though, the aim should be to communicate to the audience, but it has been discovered that some of those whom make use of inscriptive items do not know the message contain in it and the society may not also get the message or misinterpret the message.

This study examines the meaning of inscriptions on T-shirt worn by the students of FCT College of Education Zuba, Abuja, under the following perspectives/categories: general inscription, philosophical inscription, religious inscription and solidarity for societal inscription. The researcher examines these categories of inscriptions because they are the types almost every student inscribes on their t-shirts. They are common in campuses and also pass across information. It is expected that people wear meaningful and positive inscription on their shirts. It is also expected that people should be aware of the negative and positive effects of what they wear has on them and others. However, a lot of students just move along with trends without considering the effect. This is what motivated this study with a view to investigating the meanings and the effects of the inscriptions on the t-shirts students wear.

It is no news that inscription on T-shirt are the trend in tertiary institution campuses and the larger society and scholars and researchers are not also ignorant of it in their studies. However, the semantic interpretation of inscriptions on the t-shirt of students in College of Education Zuba has not receives any scholarly attention and this is what provides us a research gap to fill.

Hence, the study attempts to answer the following questions:

i. What are the varieties/categories of the inscriptions on t-shirts worn by students of FCT College of Education Zuba?

ii. What are the various implied meanings of inscriptions on t-shirts worn by students understudy?

iii. What are the semantic effects/implications of the selected inscriptions on t-shirts worn students of FCT College of Education Zuba?

The aim of this work is to analyse the meaning of these inscriptions from the wearer's and observer's point of view. The specific objectives are to:

i. identify the varieties/categories of the inscriptions on t-shirts worn by students of FCT College of Education Zuba?

ii. examine the various implied meanings of inscriptions on t-shirts worn by students understudy?

iii. discuss the semantic effects/implications of the selected inscriptions on t-shirts worn students of FCT College of Education Zuba?

It is no news that inscription on T-shirts is popular among students of all levels and ages. This study creates awareness in the minds of the students that there are implications as well as caution as regard wearing this inscribed T-shirts. Inscription on t-shirts stand to be part of philosophy of people who wear it. It explains more of their philosophy about different areas of lives such as religion, education, social, etc. The study therefore significance in the sense that it will help us to understand the various semantic interpretations of the different t-shirts put on by the target students. The study helps to bring to light the power of inscriptions and how people translate them.

This research is basically on semantic interpretation of t-shirts inscriptions worn by the students of FCT College of Education Zuba. Its area of concentration is the meaning attached to these inscriptions. This study therefore analysed fifty five (50) inscriptions. The categories of inscriptions focused on are: general inscriptions, philosophical, solidarity for societies and religion inscriptions.

Review of Related Literature

The Concept of Language

Human beings communicate their emotions, feelings, ideas, thought, opinion, beliefs, views, perceptions, judgments etc through language. No doubt, there are many other means of communication such as gesture, code, sirens, sketches, maps, inscriptions, acting, miming, dancing, etc use by human beings. Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which a social group and participants in its culture communicate (Encyclopeda Britannica). Language is purely human and non instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desire by means of voluntarily produced symbols (Sapir,

1992). There are two terms in this definition human an instinctive language, as Sapir rightly said, only human posses language and all normal humans uniformly posses it. Animal do have a communication system but it is not a developed system. Also language does not pass from a parent to a child, in sense it is non instinctive. A child has to learn language and he/ she learns the language of the society he/she is place in.

Language is the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of humanity used oral auditory symbols (Hall 1969). This definition rightly gives more prominence to the fact that language is primarily speech produced by oral symbols.

Although the above definitions emphasised the spoken form of language and less importance on the written aspect of language, the central idea in these definitions is that language is a tool and a means of communication. It is also a method used for human beings which is very necessary for the formulation and expression of thoughts. In this case, the inscriptions on t-shirt are used to pass information as well as communicate some important messages between the addresser and addressee. So, semantic analysis of this inscription is paramount because it will enable us to know the meaning of the write up and what the addresser is trying to communicate to addressee.

Semantics

Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. Since meaning is the part of language, semantics is part of linguistics. Hence, meaning covers a variety or aspect of language. Semantic is generally defined as the scientific study of meaning. But tentatively it is the study of meaning. It is the study of how sounds, morphemes, words, stress, phrase, clause, sentences and text at a higher level relate to external realities of what is called referent. Semantic is an aspect of linguistics that deals with the study of the relationship between referents (names) and referends (things/object). That is the linguistic levels (morphemes, words, phrase, and sentences) and the objects, concepts, or ideas to which they refer to. Kartz (2011, p. 102) defines semantics as the study of linguistic meaning. This definition is concerned with morphemes, words, phrase, sentences and other linguistic elements, express not with their arrangement of syntactic parts or pronunciation. The definition claims that the arrangement of syntax is not just enough for semantics. In the word of Olaoye (p. 86), semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language. To him, language functions to communicate meaning either in spoken or written form. Thus, the study of language is not complete without semantic. Hence,

semantics remains an important part of linguistics. To sum up, there is crucial need for the study of semantics because it is at the center of the study of human mind, word processes, conceptualisation and cognition.

Concept of Inscription

Inscriptions are letters, writings, carvings, or words engraved or printed on a surface. A t-shirt inscription is any text, slogans, or word printed or embroidered on a shirt to communicate a message. According to online dictionary, T-shirt inscription as graphology is a branch of linguistics that studies writing and printing as systems of signs. It is the study of the writing system of a language; it is the orthographic conventions that have been devised to turn speech into writing using any available technology (e.g. pen, ink, typewriter, printing press, electronic screen).In modern English, the core of the system is the alphabet of 26 letters, in its lower case (a, b, c...) and upper case (A, B, C...) forms, along with rules which govern the way of spelling and capitalisation, which govern the way these letters are combined to make words. The system also includes the set of punctuation marks and the conventions of text positioning (such as headlines and indents), which are used to organise text by identifying sentences, paragraphs and other written units (David, 1987).

Encyclopedia Britannica took the origin of some inscriptions to 500 century BC. One interesting history of inscription is that of ancient India under the leadership of King Mauryan Asoka during the 3rd century BC. He is known for his humane and tolerant nature through the multilingual inscriptions left across by his government. There are several categories of inscriptions during his address to the officers of the state, the Buddhist monks and they were addressed to the ordinary people at large. The most interesting part of his ancient history is the fact that it was depicted, his tone was conversational and could have been an attempt to link the oral tradition to literacy and speaks to his subject. This is agreed to be unusual for a King to establish a relationship with his subjects through inscriptions.

Formal outfits are rigid and they erase individuality, but students want to let others know who they are, what they care about and what makes them happy. This is portrayed in what it is inscribed on their T-shirt such as pictures of popular artists, also with inscriptions like “keep calm, I am the birthday girl.” This inscription is in form of information, that is the fact that it is a calm, I am the birthday girl. This inscription is in form of information that communicates a

birthday anniversary. T-shirt are usually associated with being casual, there are certain places one is not expected to wear them to. For instance, formal dinner, wedding ceremonies certain work places etc. This is not to say that some individuals do not violate the rule. Clothes have the ability to discuss our identity, beliefs, religion, etc. (Niyiọ, 2010) “inscription on T-shirts are used to map out identity on a simplistic yet widespread culture. How?”, when you have “John” on the back of a T-shirt, someone would definitely address you as “John” when you have your name” (Niyiọ, 2010). Inscribed T-shirts are also known as graphic T-shirts, they are comfortable and could be worn both gender.

Inscriptions on T-shirts use complex philosophical statements. This is because inscription on T-shirt is a strong form of art that makes use of language to pass messages and information in a unique and effective way. However, semantic analysis of the use the language on inscription is the main focus of this work. This is because, the inscription on t-shirts usually make use of philosophical statement that require connotative interpretation analysis.

Presupposition

Presupposition is the background belief relating to an utterance that must be mutually known, understood, or assumed by the speaker or the writer and the hearer or the reader. It is the background knowledge shared mutually by the interlocutors or interactants. According to Ghenga (2015, p. 62), "Presupposition based on mutually shared background knowledge between two interlocutors upon which the ongoing conversation is predicated." For instance, the sentence "Dorcas will be at the airport tomorrow to receive her husband from London." presupposes the following: There is a person called Dorcas, Dorcas is married, Dorcas' husband lived London, Dorcas' husband will live in London tomorrow. In the word of McCawley (1981), presupposition is a logical concept bound up with truth conditional semantics. Conditional semantics is an approach that studies the propositional meaning of sentences and the logical condition for establishing their truth or falsity. One sentence presupposes another just in case the truth of the first sentence is a necessary condition for the truth or falsity of the second sentence. For instance, the sentence "Joy's brother has just come back from Abuja" presupposes that, Joy has a brother. It should be noted that presupposition remains unchanged under sentence or constructions like: Negation, Question, Embedding, Modals etc. for instance, the sentence, “The prince of Abuja is old” can presuppose the following: The prince of Abuja is not old, Is the prince of Abuja old?, The prince of Abuja might be old. All the sentences presuppose that there is a prince in Abuja. It is clear that the presupposition remains the same despite the different construction of sentences.

Presupposition can either be semantics or pragmatics. Semantic presupposition is concerned with the logical relations that hold between sentences. It is part of sentence meaning. On the other

hand, pragmatic presupposition is concerned with the conditions required before a speech act can be suitable for a given context.

Empirical Review

Shehu Mohammed Hassan (2026) did a research on "Stylistic Patterns and Cultural Schemata in Abubakar Gimba's Witnesses to Tears". The paper examines in qualitative terms the techniques employed by Abubakar Gimba in Witnesses to Tears. It employs various stylistic patterns to depict cultural schemata. It adopts schema theory as proposed by Bartlett (1932), expanded by Rumelhart (1980) and critically applied to textual study by Semino (1997). It shows in explicit terms how stylistic devices such as euphemism, hyperbole, metaphor, rhetorical questions and sarcasm prompt culturally motivated and experience-based schemata which inform the understanding and analysis of social and psychological issues in the text. The results show how the expression of independence can intensify discord between childhood and adulthood schemata. It also exposes ethical pressures and social responsibilities typical of professional duty through medical schemata. Witnesses to Tears, explored through the instrument of schema theory, shows that stylistic devices are more than just ornamental tools but a valid instrument for meaning-making and cultural negotiation of experience. This study contributes to existing knowledge on cognitive stylistics by highlighting the importance of schema-based analysis in Nigerian fiction. This study parts way from the current study on a notion of different level of linguistic analysis.

Alani Ebenezer Akinyele Obeya, Nora Alewo, (2026) conducted a study on A Grapho-grammatical Study of Language of Academic Advertisement in Selected Daily Trust Newspaper in Nigeria. This paper is a grapho-grammatical study of features of language use in advertisement, especially those of academic advertisement in selected adverts in Daily Trust Newspaper. The main focus of this paper is to discus the graphological and grammatical elements used in academic advertisements in Daily Trust Newspaper. The study in addition investigated and analysed the ways in which language of advertisements reflects the various elements of graphology, lexis, morphology, syntax as levels of linguistic stylistic analysis. The data for the study was generated from the Daily Trust Newspaper. Convenient sampling technique was used to select a sample of ten (10) academic advertisements from the Daily Trust Newspaper of which six (6) of them were analysed The study was informed by the use of the

various elements of linguistic stylistic analysis in examining the linguistic stylistic elements that were used in the academic adverts. This paper shows that academic advertisement understudy employ syntactic elements such as simple and everyday language, and word class of: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives etc. At the graphological level, the academic advertisement employed different colours such as red, green, purple, black etc. graphological elements such as different logos, images, pictures, font sizes, font faces, etc to persuade their targeted audience. Hence, the adverts make use of linguistic stylistics features like, graphological feature, lexical feature, syntactic features, morphological and semantic feature. This paper concludes base on the findings that the vital role that graphology and grammar play as key elements of linguistic stylistic features in depicting interpretation and understanding of academic advertisements in Daily Trust Newspaper cannot be overemphasised. Though, the studies above similar to the current study for the fact that they are both stylistic analysis but they are both different from the present study in a number of ways. The first examines the Stylistic Patterns and Cultural Schemata in Abubakar Gimba's Witnesses to Tears while the second study investigated and discussed the Grapho-grammatical Study of Language of Academic Advertisement in Selected Daily Trust Newspaper in Nigeria. However, the current study is basically on semantic analysis of T-shirt inscriptions as used by student in FCT College of Education Zuba.

Theoretical Frame Work (Implicature in Semantics)

Implicature is an aspect of meaning that normally refers to the act of implying a meaning beyond the literal sense of what is explicitly stated. It is a technical term in the pragmatic linguistics, coined by H. P. Grice, which refers to what is suggested in an utterance, though neither expressed nor strictly implied by the utterance. According to Oyelowo (2002, p.39), implicature refers to what the speaker or the writer actually means, suggests or imply, as oppose to what the speaker or writer literally says or writes. The two types of implicature as identified by Grice (1967) are: Conventional implicature and Conversational implicature. Conventional implicature is the conventional or arbitrary meaning of words. That is, conventional implicature may be the arbitrary meaning of a word which may be relative and differ from culture to culture or society to society. According to Yole (1996, p. 45), conventional implicatures are not based on the cooperative principle; They don't depend on special context for their interpretation; They don't have to occurs in conversation; They are associated with special words and result such as but, yet, even and etc."He worked hard but lost the election. We both screamed and jumped out

through the window." Conversational implicatures on the other hand, are implicatures that arise during conversation, where the speaker voluntarily flouts or violates are of the maxims in the maxims of conversation, that an implied meaning to the addressee. It has many uses in creating an additional meaning to a given utterance. For the sake of this study, only conventional implicature is considered.

Methodology

The primary sources of the data for this paper are the students of FCT College of education, Zuba, Abuja. The methods of data collection use are observation and jotting-down methods. The researcher observed the inscriptions written on the students shirts and wrote them down as they walk around the college. The data were collected from the five (5) accredited schools in the college and also met expert in Arabic, French and Hausa languages to help interpret the inscription written in these languages to adequately interpret the meaning of the inscriptions. This is because the researcher is not proficient enough in all these languages to adequately interpret the meaning of the inscriptions. Random sampling was used to collect the data while purposive sampling technique was employed to select and group the data under various categories for analysis. A total number of eighty (80) inscriptions were collected and Fifty (50) inscriptions were analysed in a tabular form. The researcher sub-grouped the inscriptions into: general, religious, philosophical and solidarity inscription, so as to provide for easy analysis. The meanings are analysed in terms of implicature, and presupposition with the use of table.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data are presented and analysed in tables based on the categorisations of the various types of inscriptions and their meanings as suggested via t-shirts worn by the students understudy.

Table 1.1: Analysis of General Inscriptions

SN	Analysis	Implied Meaning	Presupposition
1	Tomorrow is a good day	This implied hope and confident that tomorrow will be better day than previous days. Tomorrow in this context can also be denoted as future, meaning the	Presupposes hope There are other days. The inscription indicate future event

		future will be bright.	
2	Boys are stupid	The inscription implied immature attitude and behavior of guys or men.	Presupposes some people are stupid. Not all males are stupid but boys
3	Haters make me famous	It implied he is less concern of haters. That is, the wearer of this t-shirt felt his reputation is not harmed by rumor mongers other than add to his prestige/fame.	Presupposes the wearer has enemies.
4	Kings are born in August	The inscription is a self appraisal. It means the wearer was probably born on August or celebrating/proud of people born in August and or perhaps Celebrating his birth month.	Presupposes the wearer is a living thing. The wearer was Born on August. Only August produces king.
5	Life is a catwalk	It implied life is not easy. It is not straight forward. It is full of ups and downs. Life is full of struggles	This presupposes there is an abstract thin called life
6	The blue	An inscription denoting Chelsea football club	There is something/someone called blue.
7	Be black and educated	It is an appraisal of the wearer. It implied the uniqueness of his or her black skin/colour and education. It can still imply that African are black and educated. Black man should try as much as	It presupposes there is an entity call black and another one refer to as education.

		possible to be educated.	
8	Believe in yourself	This inscription is an encouragement. It means to be independent and confident.	Presupposes that there is a personality refer to as self who need not to doubt her opinion or idea
9	Crushing on him	It means the wearer has affection toward someone.	It presupposes there is an individual refers to as him.
10	Everybody want me	This inscription implied everyone likes me, I am loved by everyone, I am indispensable.	Presupposes something or someone is indisputable or irresistible
11	It all about me	It means self crush, the hearer likes herself.	Presupposes something or someone like his or her life style.
12	Blessed by God spoiled by my boyfriend protected by both	This inscription is provocative. A deliberate attempt to provoke onlookers	It presupposes there is a personality called God. Also that the wearer is a female. She has a boy friend.
13	Blink if you want me	It means show it or tell me if you like me.`	Presupposes someone is requesting for something
14	As a may girl I have 3 sides the quite & sweet side the fun& crazy side and the side you never want to see	This inscription is descriptive in nature. It describes who the wearer is.	Presupposes the student is a human. She is a female and she was born in May
15	Black is class	Implied that black either a shade of colour	Presupposes there is something refers to as

		or skin color is elegant, classy.	black
16	Keep on rocking	It implies, keep up the good work, keep enjoying, keep looking good	Presupposes someone is doing something
17	Straight out school	It implies assurance of going to school.	Presupposes someone was in school
18	I do it for the A ha moment	Means I do it to avoid peoples criticism or insult.	Presupposes someone did something
19	Shit happens	It means undesirable/unfavorable things happens	Presupposes something happens, unwanted things happen.
20	Every tall gal need a short best friend	It implies that men should make best choice. Tall girl should go for short guy while a short girl go fall tall guy.	Presupposes human are short and tall. Also that some girls are tall while some are short
21	Envy me but you can't be like me	This inscription implies, you can not be like me even if you envy me.	Presupposes someone is incomparable.
23	Off love dreams come true	It implies encouragement for one to pursue his or her dream because it will come to reality.	Presupposes expression of dream.
24	Smiling can change a life	It implies to be happy always. Happiness can change life.	Presupposes smiling is good.
25	What happen today will never happen again	It implies to be hopeful for a better tomorrow.	Presupposes things will change. There is hope of better future.
26	I am hot	This implies being sexy	Presupposes the student is sexy

General inscription are those inscriptions that are common, well known, and are used almost by everyone in the society. These kinds of inscriptions are not peculiar or associated with a particular profession or field of studies. They are originated from the general believe or convention of the society. That explains why they are usually reverse to universal inscription. Therefore, from the analysis above we can see that general inscriptions are more common on campus. Some of these inscriptions are provocative and purposely worn to provoke the onlookers while some are educative. This is not to say that they are irrelevant. After all they still pass across information about the wearer. The implied meanings indicate the general attitude, behavior or mindset of the students understudy.

Table 1.2: Analysis of Philosophical Inscription

SN	Analysis	Implied Meaning	Presupposition
1	What goes around comes around	This inscription is equivalent to the proverb what you sow you reap. It implied that one should be careful and mind his or her attitudes and characters.	Presupposes life is a circuit.
2	Life is a ladder	It means life is a gradual process; life is stages.	Presupposes there is life.
3	Two wrongs don't make a right	It means bad things can never be tagged as good.	Presupposes something are wrong while something are right.
4	Life treats you the way treat it	The inscription is equivalent to the proverb what you sow you reap	Presupposes there is life. There is nemesis.
5	Life is a Journey	It implies life experiences	Presupposes this is life

Philosophical inscription are very close or similar to both general and religion inscription. That is why some scholars like Rex (1992) believed that all inscriptions are philosophical that is religion, general, political inscriptions etc are aspect of philosophical inscriptions. Nevertheless, philosophical inscriptions are more concern with individual beliefs about a particular thing or

concept. Hence, these inscriptions above shows the perspective of the wearer toward life, they also advice and educate.

Table 1.2: Analysis Solidarity Inscription

S/N0:	Inscribed expressions	Implied meaning	Presupposition
1	Dope literary linguist	Appraisal describing linguist as unique.	Presuppose there are linguist. Linguist are unique.
2	NASELS COE, Zuba	It is an acronym. The inscription means "National Association of English and Literary College Of Education, Zuba"	Presupposes there is an association in COE called NASELS. There are students of English and Literary studies in COE Zuba. There is an association for students of English and literary studies in Zuba.
3	Pen Magician Linguist	It is an appraisal of linguist. It implied good writer/author.	Presupposes there are linguist. Not every one is a linguist.
4	Time to tap out no more rehearsals	It implied final year students	Presupposes the students are free from any form of school activities.
5	Proudly Historian	Denoting students of history department.	Presupposes the students is a student of history department and he is not ashamed of studying the course
6	A past, a clue to the	It implied final year students	Presupposes the

	present		students have come to the end of their school program and now in a new stage.
7	Une langue un people	The inscription is written in French. It implied one language one people.	Presupposes there is a language called French
8	المريماشاسالهجارة	The inscription is written in Arabic language. It means Arabic is the foundation of civilisation.	Presupposes there is a language called Arabic
9	Le française est ma fierté	It means French language is my pride. It is an appraisal of French department.	Presupposes there is a language called French and the student is proud to be studying the language
10	Vraiment Francophile	It means a truly French lover	Presupposes there is a language called French and the student truly love the language
11	M.S.S – COE, Zuba	This is a combination of two acronyms: M.S.S and COE. The M.S.S means Muslim Students Society while the COE mean College Of Education. The acronyms are implied to show the religion and academic identity or belonging of the students.	Presupposes there is an association refers to as M.S.S in college of education, Zuba.

Table 1.3: Analysis Solidarity Inscription

Solidarity inscription is concerned with the belief of a group of people, association or organisation. These kinds of inscriptions are normally used to propagate the unity, togetherness or warmness of a particular group. Through solidarity inscriptions one can easily or possibly identified an individual with a particular group or association. That is, these kinds of inscription make easy to trace a particular person in a particular group, association or organi sation. For example, the students of English can be identified whenever they put on their T-shirts so also students of History, Arabic among others. Though, the data collected show that there are situations whereby students wear a T-shirts that contains inscription of another department or association different from theirs but it is still agreed that such a student is in one way or the other connected to that department or association. From the above analysis we can see that these

inscriptions show solidarity to their social groups, associations, unions etc in other to identify themselves with the department, group or association they belong to. The data show that solidarity inscriptions are very common in the school understudy.

Table 1.4: Analysis Religious Inscription

SN	Analysis	Implied Meaning	Presupposition
2	When God says yes Nobody says no.	This inscription means nobody can change the will of God. It implied that only God has the final say.	It presupposes there is an unquestionable being called God.
3	Insha Allah	It means by the will of God or by the grace of God.	Presupposes there is a being called Allah (God).
4	Only God can judge me	It means the student is only accountable to God.	Presupposes there is God who judges.
5	Jesus Alpha and Omega	It means Jesus is the beginning and the end.	Presupposes there is a personality called Jesus. He is encompassing over all things.
6	Islam is my life.	This implied that Islamic religion is so crucial and important to the student. Her life depends on the religion (Islam). It also means that the religion defines her life.	Presupposes there is a religion called Islam. Also, that the student is a living being. She has a life.
7	Because He lives	This inscription means God lives.	It presupposes that that there is an entity called He
8	Jesus is coming back	It implied that people should prepare for the coming of Jesus and have a change of behavour and attitude.	It presupposes that that there is an entity called Jesus and He is

			coming back

Religious Inscriptions

Religion inscriptions are originated from and associated with the different religion in the society. They are used by the students to propagate their beliefs about the religion. In addition, these kinds of inscriptions are majorly used to advice, motivate, preach, warn or educate people about the religion. Religion inscriptions as in the data collected and analysed above are commonly found in Islamic and Christian religion. The analysis above shows that students make used of religious inscriptions to advertise, encourage, preach, signal identity, convince etc.

Discussion of Findings

From the data presented and analysed, it was discovered that there are different types of inscriptions on t-shirts worn by the students of FCT College of education, Zuba, Abuja: philosophical inscriptions; for example, 'what goes around comes around', religious inscriptions; for example, 'Jesus Alpha Omega', general inscriptions; for example, 'haters make me famous' and, solidarity for societies; for example, 'dope literary linguist'. Also, through the theory of implicature and presupposition, the meanings on the inscriptions are discovered and interpreted. The study revealed that the meanings vary depending on the classification of the inscription, meaning of the philosophical inscriptions are based on the philosophy of nature, natural laws, and individual perceptions toward life. Solidarity for societies expresses social cooperation, social groups, and social unions. Religious inscriptions have their meanings on religious belief. The study also show that inscriptions on t-shirt provide the avenue for students to be creative by inscribing what they want on their t-shirt. According to the findings, majority of the students inscribe on their t-shirt and wear T-shirt with inscription because they want to create an identity for themselves. Another group of students inscribe on their t-shirt because they want to gain attention but some inscribe because they want to belong.

Conclusion

This research has given the account of semantic analysis of T-shirt inscriptions worn by the students of FCT College of education, Zuba, Abuja. The study examined the meaning of T-shirt inscription worn by target students, the various types of inscription such as philosophical, religion, solidarity for societies, political and general inscription are also discussed along with the target students. This was done from the data collected through participant observation.

Therefore, the study has been able to analysed the different types of inscriptions on T-shirt worn by the target students. It also examined the varieties of meaning that the T-shirt inscription communicates across the audience. In addition, the implications of the selected T-shirt inscriptions are also highlighted.

There is a saying that “the way you dress, so you are addressed”. If one dresses like a prostitute no one would ask to confirm if the person is one or not and if one is wearing an Arsenal Jersey one would not be asked what club one support. Also, if a student inscribes "Insha Allah" on his or her t-shirt, people may probably not ask the student’s religion because it is already communicated through the inscription on the shirt. Hence, the study conclude on the bases of the findings that to avoid arrest, embarrassment, harassment, it is better to inscribe with caution and according to what is acceptable in the society because these inscriptions are part of dressings and they are pointers to individual personality.

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