

## "Utterance Technology" for "Shorthand" a Reperception of the Consonant Strokes: for Copping with E-Activity and Ict Changing Environment in Business Education

Ozuruoke, A. A.  
Ogolo, F. I.

*School of Business Education  
Federal College of Education (Technical), Omoku, Rivers State, Nigeria*

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**Abstract** *Society generally is witnessing a lot of phenomenal development changes in almost every sphere of human endeavor's, Information Communication Technology (ICT) taking the lead. In all fact of life concepts, attention on ICT becomes most high. The fact that these new evolutional developmental patterns flow along with verbal communication (talk) calls for more concentrations on the area. A specific focus on utterance and its intricacies will enhance or even elevate the technological perspective of ICT and enhances entrepreneurial living. The proposal here is highly in concordance to ICT compliances. The essential elements in utterances mastery will be fully understood in this presentation and if so passed on to the learners, will definitely result to perfect making of individuals who will be effective and efficient in the field.*

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### Introduction

The major course "shorthand" among education courses in the field of business is now the most unwelcome, unappreciated, dreaded and subsequently most dejected and failed by students among all. Students and most lecturers do not seem to understand why such terrorizing course should be integrated among educational courses more especially even at this present "touch button information and communication gadgets are almost every where and can be used by many people too. Actually, the feeling of many people too. Actually, the feeling of many people is that the course shorthand be scraped out of educational system. This feeling seemed to be the reason why the writer among other few are of the view that, and stressing that the course should stay but be well thought.

It is hoped that when the advantages and its benefits are fully understood one will really see reasons why even the developed nations of the world are still very much using and still emphasize its acquisition or learning. Limited opportunity here will not permit elaborate expatiations of benefits and opportunities derivable through the processes in undertaking this course. However, some few ones are as follows: The sign formation development habit based on the attentiveness to sound that is built through drill practices develops human capacities on the following:

- enhance hearing capacity
- retention of words
- sequential flow of ideas
- internalization of facts
- endurance and perseverance
- fast reasoning and movement of hands
- enhance concentration abilities
- ability to recognize, differentiate and adjust with dexterity and mastery skills

Proposal to revisit shorthand consonant sources or rename shorthand "Utterance Technology" some related literatures shall be reviewed to enhance our reasoning. This should be done with the following in minds:- to understand why the name Utterance Technology is agitated in place of the former; to examine the organ or parts of the body used for the making of sound and get a hint on their formation when producing sounds; to examine the types of utterances we have for real identification; to examine the sources of the signs use to represent corresponding sounds. A brief general description of how the organs are used to utter sound will

also be made. What people say about the benefits or otherwise of the time use in the art will also be examined. Associated benefits in addition to acquiring the skill techniques will also be reviewed. What the society or nation stands to gain through this technique acquisitions will as well be highlighted.

A none or lesser user of the skill of utterance techniques may wonder and even argue that these benefits mentioned here cannot all be associated with the course but there are even much more than these. One cannot see them with the kind of the over all negative nations formed about the course hitherto. This is due to the psychological defects set in by some previous 'mechanical' learners through the hardship of cramming and memorizing of passages and their associated outlines or signs used without proper grooming on real background foundation of learning it, and ignoring to know the foundation for uttering sounds or reasons why certain signs should represent certain sound. This lack of foundation always disrupted the natural inclination and joy that is associated with the art in our tertiary institutions.

It is the return of this natural inclination and joy that is associated with this course that this work addresses here so as to raise the value classification that were hitherto erupted by conceptual flows exhibited by ignorance of actual facts. A natural perception and appreciation mood should be developed so as to see in essence the reality of what nature offers through the knowledge of this course.

This write up starts by offering the course, the name Utterance Technology, instead of the usual shorthand. It will discuss then the utterances organs of human body as provided by nature; the types of sounds by human. It will also discuss and present how through nature, the signs used for representing the sounds (utterances) are derived. It is hoped that with careful understanding of these, effort can be intensified by the learners to practice what they would be made to understand, what they would be taught to do from what they may hear or think to have heard for the development of this special multipurpose skill in our tertiary institutions especially those institutions that are equipped with modern ICT gadgets.

### The Facts in this Issue

It is an acceptable notion that shorthand as a core business subject has no specific support in some nations philosophy of education as in Nigeria. Further the production of specialized trained teacher equipped with the real knowledge and skill in the area of shorthand are still dreadful yet to be ventured. Such nations are founded and managed by those who are negatively biased and had no interest on the subject.

Today, the art of making and transcribing shorthand notes is largely based on reflection of activities of development within foreign (English or French Speaking Nations) and not reflecting other culture (Language inclusive). This generated displeasure and dislike which further subjects the art into hatred and unhealthy debating and arguments against, such statements as of what use will it be in the presence of tape recorders and computers? Such people who ask such question fail to realize that most education programmes and process are implied upon other developmental pattern.

The need for high motivated, dedicated and qualified teacher in any educational organization cannot be over emphasized. Farrant (1964) in Amaewhule (1990) assert that a lesson is not taught until it has been learned, and it cannot be learned until it is understood. Let it be added that it cannot be understood if it is not well delivered or passed on. It cannot be well passed on if it is not well acquired. Real acquisition therefore depends on the disposition, experience, qualification, and the dexterity of the teacher in the method used. Nolan (1986) stated that business teacher has the responsibilities to help the students develop basic skills and knowledge which is required in a well articulated curriculum. But most teachers in this field instead of devising means and ways of making shorthand appreciable, loving and desiring, go ahead criticizing the subject and displaying open disregard and uninterested even when they are paid to teach it. This paper has it here that, it is high time teachers' disposition about a given subject be investigated and proper adjustment implemented to achieving the desired objectives.

## Purpose of this Paper

This paper is aimed at redesigning shorthand in thoughts, perception, teaching approach and to unfold its numerous benefits. Also recreate the process involved to enhance the understanding of the real techniques involved through redesigning it. It is believe that those much talked about benefits being direct and implied knowledge will be fully acquired and used for the development of information communication technology self reliance and productivity.

## Recreating Questions

This recreating proposal if well executed will provide adequate solutions to the following questions:

1. Is the art involved in learning shorthand a really time wasting useless effort?
2. Are there essential skills other than drawing signs to the acquired in the learning techniques involved?
3. Has the society or nation anything to gain from someone who acquire the techniques other than the teaching of the subjects.

## Significance of this Paper

In the first place teaching is a profession for making useful manpower generally. Economic strength of any nation lie in the world of business, the core of information communication techniques. This goes with talk (utterances) in diverse specifications. Anything contrary or negative in this all important sphere of life – “teaching” and “utterance” does not profess doom alone but “real doom” for such a society. In this regard this proposal for the well being of core society life fluids becomes the proposal of all proposals and if carried out becomes the wisest thing every done by any society in the field of utterances. It therefore becomes very significant for the entire human nation and the development of human abilities.

## Scope of Recreating

This recreating proposal implementation should be carried out in every tertiary institutions of the globe. In Nigeria, let it be done in every state of the federation. Especially among these institutions that offers shorthand in the area of business and education.

## Why Utterance Technology

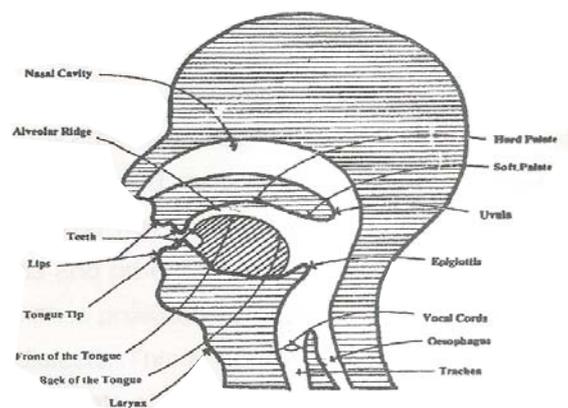
Sounds through the mouth are just part of the totality of sounds in the universe. Sounds occurs when birds sing, or cry, dogs bark, cars or vehicles move, when engines get started, when people sing, claps, cry, shout, etc. When human beings communicate with another they usually do that through speech or talk or writing. Speech or talk involves sounds from the mouth – “Utterance” – which are associated with hearing and meaning for understanding to take place. These mouth sounds combine with one another as may be heard to form meaningful utterances.

When one speaks, one produces a chain of sounds which are mentally arrange in sequence as heard. In mental recognition from stress and intonation resulting from certain movements from the organ part to give syllable or words. The feature of stress, intonation and sequence of these sounds in speech processes become very necessary in life and constitute producing organ sound system – UTTERANCE. The art of having heard it and trying to represent it as actually heard in the briefest (the most brief) form possible (i.e. sign) involves a developed technique hence “UTTERANCE TECHNOLOGY”.

## The Utterance Organs

The process of utterance according to Onuigbo (2006), starts from the lungs which acts as power house. As the airstream flows out from lungs through the narrow space of the wind pipe, some sounds are produced. He further said that other organs along the throat in the mouth modify the sounds according to the message which the speaker wants to convey. He added other parts as the vocal cords, the velum, hard palate, alveolar ridge, teeth, lips and the tongue. Among all he described the tongue as the most active articulator because it moves and can, in contact with others create a total or partial obstruction during the production of certain groups of sound (utterance) – consonants. Onuigbo (2006) also added that the tongue's distance from the top of the oral cavity influences the quality of the other group of sounds called vowel. Even at all these, it should be noted that utterance are produced only when the airstream flows out of the lungs. Larynx is another organ that also modifies the sound depending on the state of yet another known as glottis through the vocal cords vibrates to produce "Voiced Sounds" or drawn apart not to vibrate to produce "Voiceless Sounds". All these organs contribute one way and the other to make sounds, see diagram in fig 1 below. According to Onuigbo (2006) still, the movement of the jaws also influences the shape of the lips in the production of the vowels. The expansion or contraction of these utterances organs produces different types of sounds.

Fig. 1: Diagram showing organs of utterance



*(Oral English for Schools; Pg.2)*

## Types of Utterances

Ozuruoke (2003) offered an explanation of sounds utterances to be sound made with mouth that is heard or idea or impression conveyed through mouth being heard. Shortly put, - "utterance" from the mouth where the human mouth is the conveying organ. He further categorized mouth sounds (utterance) into 2 groups: for easy follow up of this art.

1. Sounds made with hearable break (CONSONANT)
2. Sounds made without hearable break (VOWELS)

Onuigbo (2006) though based his idea of sound system through English Language also said that it is made up of two main features. Further he said the segmental feature are simply the vowels and consonants while the supra-segmental features are – stress rhythm, and intonation. He further classified the vowels and consonants as individual sound segments and added that the features of stress, rhythm and intonation affects the quality of the sounds, and acted over longer sequences. This is similar to the group, Ozuruoke (2006) in agreement with pitman (1978) referred to as "double consonants", and "compound consonants" in addition to diaphones and triphones. This presenter agrees also with Onuigbo (2006), to say that although

the relative importance of stress, intonation, etc is generally recognized, efforts made for the teaching and learning of these features are not commensurate with their importance in intelligible communication and the prescribing of art. The reasons for the apparent lack of interest and serious effort by both learners and some teachers especially in Nigeria and other multilingual countries or societies. This proposal if closely followed makes provision to represent exactly what is uttered no matter the language or dialects. This is achieved by careful understanding the nature derivation of the elements of the signs used, as hereafter explained.

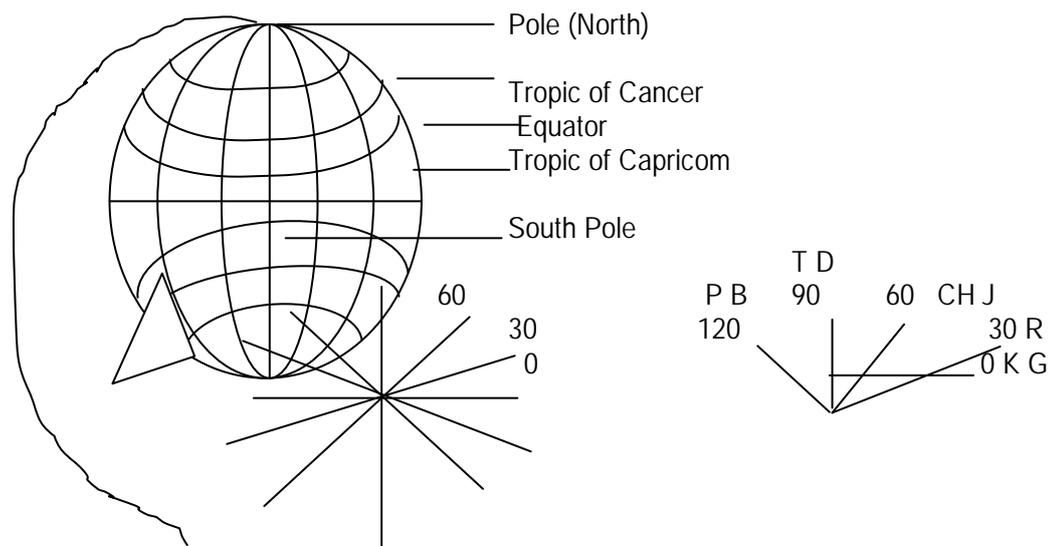
### Natural Insinuation for Derivations of Sound Signs

Utterances at this stage should be viewed with this technique of getting subsequent sign representation for actual sound in relation to nature. Nature provides that one should always and only be thinking of 2 things in every consideration: - Thus – male and female, day or night, up or down, front or back, bends or straight, etc. Utterance techniques should also keep one within this frame of mind. Sound utterances should be grouped into 2 only too. We had heard earlier of sounds with hearable break or without hearable break let us also add – long short; heavy or light; straight or curve, etc. According to Ozuruoke 2006 as agreed with Pitman (1978) sounds made with hearable break are called consonants while those made without hearable breaks are called vowels. Either consonant or vowel can be made long or short and also be represented with heavy or light sign. The signs used to represent consonant are in form of straight strokes and shallow curves. While those use for representing vowels are in the forms of dots and dashes. Invariably, there can be a light stroke or a heavy stroke for consonant and light or heavy dots and dashes for the vowel sounds. These signs can be derived from Areole et al (2006) put forward as natural look of the earth in globe.

### The Consonant Signs Associate

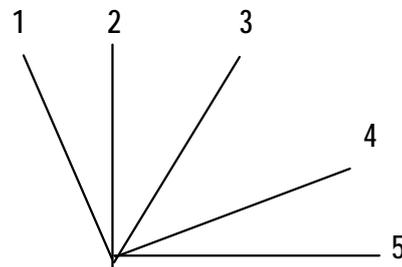
The sounds made with hearable breaks otherwise known as consonants are identified by Pitman to be 24 in number but represented with 26 signs. The signs for these sounds for this mastery aim can be associated with the imaginary natural line on the Globe base on geographical perspectives as seen in these diagrams.

Fig. 2: Pole End Derivation of Straight Strokes

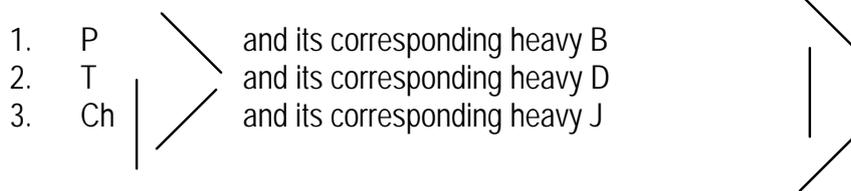


(Source – Certificate Physical & Human Geography Pg. 7 -13)

From the pole point with a distinct consideration from 0 to 120 at angle 30° intervals every other strokes seems to repeat itself. So five strokes at these intervals can be singled out and used as signs representations of some sound in human speeches (utterances) following pitman's discovery or shorthand

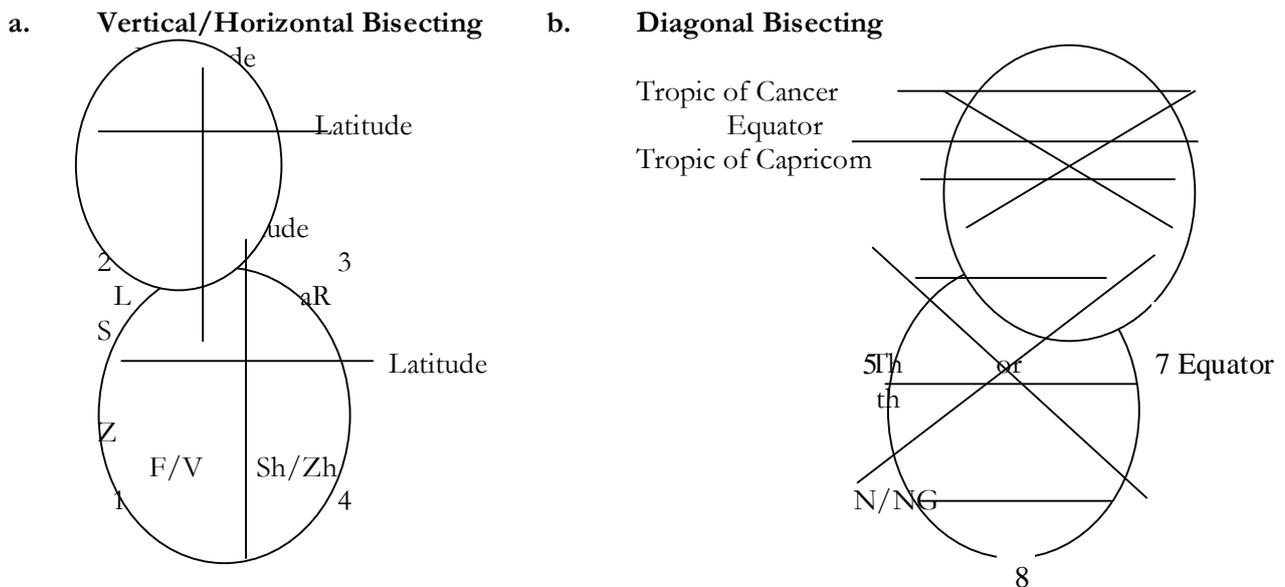


0 – 120, 5 selected strokes from 30° interval of the Earth Pole. From this diagram it becomes natural to see that some major consonants derived their signs formations from these strokes, as number 1 stroke is sign representation for



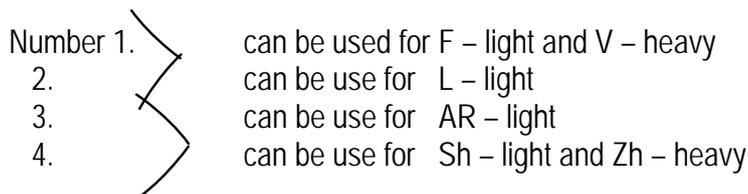
Same can be said of others for K and G as well as derivatives for R and H. Similarly, the Globe too can be used to deduce the signs for the curved strokes by dividing or bisecting the globe in two different perspectives thus vertical/horizontal cutting, diagonal left-down and right-down cutting.

Fig. 3: The Global Derivation of Curved Strokes



(Source: Certificate Physical and Human Geography for SSS Pg. 8 -13)

From these diagrams it can also be deduced that some other consonants gets their sign representations from these curves. If being bisected in two forms as 1 – Vertical/Horizontal and 2 – Diagonal Bisecting resulting to curve as:-



On these geographical perspectives it could be seen that consonants are represented with straight strokes and shallow curves. Representing consonants are not only ordinary imaginative drawing but derived from natural, relation to geographical natural curve shapes of the glob. The sounds made without hearable breaks also have similar inclination in agreement with nature for dot as small globe and dash strokes as the latitude line.

### Conceptual Negative View as Affecting Recreating Efforts a Time Consuming Task

The diligence required to master the art of shorthand is time consuming and that is what the uninterested students and teachers complained about. It should be forgotten that “Any thing worth doing is worth doing well and that nothing good comes easy. Pitman (1978) ascertained this in one of his passages by saying that Gold is not gotten on the surface. The believe of “practice makes perfect” should not be forgotten. Onwusu – Ansah (2004) argued that the course sees obstacles or difficulties as challenges which must be faced squarely and conquered. Igbo (2000) in Ozuruoke (2003) says it makes one abides by one’s decisions and accepts responsibilities for them. He further stated that the skill gives one enduring training that is capable to enable one to bear risks and that dexterity and mastery in speed and accuracy are well developed after long term consented efforts.

### The Benefits of Acquiring Utterance Technology Skill

Onwusu-Ausah (2004), Orifa (2005), Davis and Gubb (1991) in their various views affirmed that entrepreneurship which has almost the same zeal and involvement as shorthand in skill acquisition, offers – self confidence, self reliance, risk taking and bearing, is result oriented, creativities, initiatives, and leadership quality that ensures success in almost all endeavors.

Igbo (2004), specifically designed what he call SWOT analysis membership – strength, weakness, opportunities and threat analysis of any on going business assessment as to advantageously maximize the use of available assets. Creativities and innovations resulting from the concentration habit also help the one who acquire such techniques to synthesis extensions of other mind dissatisfaction, bulk of job challenges, delay in payment, unemployment will never be associated with anyone that has acquired a wonderful skill technique as this much more could be reviewed.

### The Focus of Recreating Proposal

Since some of our halls are equipped with computer gadgets for course involving computer such as Computer Appreciation, Computer Application, Word Processing and others. It is hereby proposed that:

1. A good textbook or lecture notes as life packages that is well developed to fully cover all the intricacies of utterances techniques be installed in those computers as “Teach Yourself Utterance Technology” in a lovely sequential order.
2. Head phones provided for each of them so as to encourage individual practices as a form of

- personal learning not to disturb others.
3. Lecturers of this course can be specifically trained to handle this project accordingly.
  4. More computers should be provided to make provision for at least 200 students to be accommodated in a given period in separate halls.
  5. This self educative programme will be installed into floppy diskettes and offer to students who may wish to go home with it.
  6. This programme which will display both visual formations of sounds heard and signs formed out of what is heard, will no doubt be of immense assistance in eliminating terrors pose by this course to students.

## Conclusion

Recreating shorthand skill for utterance technology is indeed a welcomed idea in the field of school of business education at least to place and have more recognition, love and appreciations of the subject and to harness the numerous benefits associated with the skill and its acquisition method in a global digital society as in this era.

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