

## TRANSLATION OF IGBO/CHINESE NUMERALS

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### Abstract

With the recent rise in Chinese economy and introduction of Confucius institutes all over the world, Chinese language is spreading very fast. A large number of people around the world want to learn Chinese language, because it is becoming popular. It is worth mentioning that one-fifth of the world's population speaks some form of Chinese as their mother tongue. In order to promote and spread Igbo language, a translation of Igbo/Chinese numerals is significant. This is a first attempt to work on Igbo/Chinese numerals by any scholar. The objective of this research is to help the Nigerian (Igbo) students studying Chinese language and many Nigerian business men and women (of Igbo origin) who do business in China with a translation of numerals. This will equally assist the Chinese students and scholars who are interested in learning Igbo language. The paper is divided into different sections: introduction, Igbo language, Chinese language, the concept of translation, Igbo/Chinese numerals, analysis of Igbo numeral system, analysis of Chinese numeral system, and findings and conclusion.

**Key words:** Translation, Igbo language, Chinese language, Numeral

### Introduction

China has become an economic giant in the past years. Many people from all over the world come to China for business, tourism, education, conference and other activities. China is the biggest nation in the world with the population of over 1.3 billion. In China, there is a common language called Mandarin or 'Putonghua'. Almost all Chinese people speak and understand Mandarin despite their differences in dialects and languages. This makes Mandarin one of the languages with highest speakers in the world. Chinese language (Mandarin) has the highest number of speakers/users based on native speakers' population. Note that Mandarin is not only used in China. It is also used in some Asian countries and United States. Chinese language (Mandarin) is one of the official languages of the United Nations.

With the introduction and establishment of Confucius institutes around the world, Chinese language (Mandarin) is fast spreading. Confucius institute is a Chinese language center. The Confucius institutes have undergone extraordinary development over the past five years with warm concern and considerable support from governments and people around the world and all walks of life in China and abroad. In 2010, the Confucius institutes around the world made remarkable achievements, with steady development and

positive trends for future growth. By the end of 2010, 322 Confucius institutes and 369 Confucius Classrooms had been established in 96 countries and regions in the world (see, Hanban, 2010 Annual Report).

In Nigeria, at present there are two Confucius institutes and some Confucius classroom centers. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka is the first university in Nigeria to establish Confucius institute in 2008 and University of Lagos is the other university that operates Confucius institute. The location of Nnamdi Azikiwe University is in the eastern part of Nigeria which is populated by the Igbo ethnic group with up to ninety-five percent. In the university, ninety percent of the students are of Igbo ethnic group. In the department of Igbo/Chinese Studies, ninety-nine percent of the staff and students are Igbo people. This makes it easy for a comparative study of Igbo/Chinese language. However, there are hundreds of languages in Nigeria although English is a lingua franca and an official language in Nigeria.

### **Igbo language**

Igbo (not Ibo) is one of eight major languages in the Benue-Congo Group of African languages (Williamson, 1989). Igbo language is classified as a Niger-Congo language and belongs to the Kwa sub-group of languages spoken in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that some of these Kwa languages have been spoken roughly the same locations as today for over 4,000 years. It is spoken more than 25 million Nigerians and one of the three national languages (the others being Hausa and Yoruba) designated in the Nigerian constitution. Main characteristics for the Kwa languages are the tones and vowel harmony.

Igbo language is written in the Roman script and is tonal language like Chinese, with two distinctive tones: high and low. There are numerous Igbo dialects, some of which are not mutually intelligible. The standard written form of Igbo is based on the Owerri and Umuahia dialects and has been in use since 1962 (see, *The Society for Promoting Igbo Language and Culture*, 1985).

### **Chinese language**

Chinese belongs to the Semitic or Chinese branch of Sino-Tibetan language family. Chinese language has many dialects which are mutually unintelligible. The saving grace is that majority of these dialects have a common written form. The pronunciation of any word can be completely different but the character (written form) looks the same.

Mandarin or 'Guohua' is family of related dialects spoken across most of the northern and southwestern part of the Mainland China. The Mandarin dialect spoken in Beijing functions as the official national language of the Peoples' Republic of China and it is also called 'Standard Chinese or Common language'. Mandarin is one of the official languages in Taiwan, as well as Singapore. It is termed 'Putonghua' (Common language) in mainland China, 'Guoyu' (national language) in Taiwan, and 'Hanyu' (Han language)

or language of the Han ethnic group, the largest ethnic group in China which comprises ninety-seven percent of China population) by overseas Chinese communities.

Mandarin is spoken by more than 1 billion people. It is the language of government, media, and education in mainland China and Taiwan. There are several Mandarin dialects, including Northern, Northwestern, Southwestern, Xia-jiang, and Southeastern Mandarin. There are also minor differences in the Mandarin standard between the mainland and Taiwan. Mandarin is written with character which represents both sound and meaning. Words in Chinese language can be made up of one or more syllables and each syllable is represented by a single character.

### **The Concept of Translation**

Much has been said about translation as being one of the most effective, if not the only, means of communication especially among cultures of different languages. Translation as a concept has existed hundred years ago, but it is only during the second half of the twentieth century that it emerged as an independent academic discipline called 'Translation Studies' and taught at universities.

Translation is usually defined as the act of transmitting the language of the source text (T.T) taking into consideration cultural and linguistic differences. Translation is an act of understanding that precedes explaining. In this regard, it is necessary that before starting the translation of any text, the translator should have a clear understanding, linguistically, semantically and culturally speaking, of that source text so that he or she would be able to convey the real intended meaning of the target language.

According to Munday (2001), translation is described as "The process of translation between two different languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)". His definition or description is the type of translation called 'interlingual translation' as has been categorized by Jakobson along with the two types known as 'intralingual translation' and 'intersemiotic translation'. Interlingual translation is the most common one in that it is concerned with translation of written texts of different languages as opposed to intralingual translation which is concerned with translating within the same language and intersemiotic translation that has to do with translating written texts into non-written works such as films, picture and music.

### **Igbo/Chinese Numerals**

In August 1972, a decimal counting system was agreed upon for Igbo language to replace the non-decimal and complex traditional system which could not in theory count beyond four hundred. The new system is additive in operation and has distinct names for ten up

to one billion. It also has names for zero and for the place values: unit, tens, hundreds, thousands, millions and billion (see, *The Society for Promoting Igbo Language and Culture*, 1985)

The Mandarin numbering system is a bit different from Igbo numeral system. For example, the number '2' has two forms - *èr* for counting and *liǎng* when used with a measure word. Measure words are used extensively in Mandarin, and specify the 'type' of the thing being discussed. The most common 'all purpose' measure word is *gè*. Large numbers also present a challenge. The next major division after 1,000 is 10,000 (*yī wàn*), so numbers above 10,000 are expressed as 'one ten thousand' 'two ten thousands' etc, up to 100,000,000, which is a new character pronounced as *yì*. The only vocabulary needed for all the numbers up to 100 are 0 (*líng*) to 10 (*shí*). The numbers from 10 to 19 are expressed as '10-1' (11), '10-2' (12) etc. Twenty is expressed as '2-10', thirty is '3-10' etc. When there is a zero in a number, such as '101', it must be stated: for example one-hundred zero one (*yī bǎi líng yī*).

**Table 1: Igbo/Chinese numerals**

Figure	Igbo language	Chinese language
0	éfù/zirò/nọtù	líng
1	ótù/òfú	yī
2	àbúọ/àbúa	Èr
3	àtọ/ító	Sān
4	Ànó	sì
5	Ìsé	wǔ
6	Ìsì	liù
7	Àsáà	qī
8	àsátọ	bā
9	ìtéghété/ítóólu	jiǔ
10	Ìrí	shí
11	ìrí nà ótù	shí yī
12	ìrí nà àbúọ	shí'èr
13	ìrí nà àtọ	Shí sān
14	ìrí nà ànó	shí sì
15	ìrí nà ìsé	shí wǔ
16	ìrí nà ìsì	shí liù
17	ìrí nà àsáà	shí qī
18	ìrí nà àsátọ	shí bā
19	ìrí nà ìtéghété	shí jiǔ
20	ìrí àbúọ	èrshí
21	ìrí àbúọ nà ótù	èrshí yī
22	ìrí àbúọ nà àbúọ	èrshí'èr

25	ìrì àbúọ nà ìsé	èrshí wǔ
29	ìrì àbúọ nà ìtéghété	èrshí jiǔ
30	ìrì àtọ	sānshí
40	ìrì ànó	sì shí
50	ìrì ìsé	wǔshí
60	ìrì ìsì	liùshí
70	ìrì àsáà	qī shí
80	ìrì àsátọ	bāshí
90	ìrì ìtéghété	jiǔshí
100	(ótù) nàrì	Yī bǎi
101	nàrì nà ótù	yī bǎi líng yī
110	nàrì nà ìrì	yī bǎi yī shí
119	nàrì nà ìrì ìtéghété	yī bǎi yī shí jiǔ
120	nàrì nà ìrì àbúọ	yī bǎi èrshí
130	nàrì nà ìrì àtọ	yī bǎi sānshí
180	nàrì nà ìrì àsátọ	yī bǎi bāshí
200	nàrì àbúọ	Èrbǎi
300	nàrì àtọ	Sānbǎi
400	nàrì ànó	Sì bǎi
500	nàrì ìsé	Wǔbǎi
800	nàrì àsátọ	Bābǎi
900	nàrì ìtéghété	Jiǔbǎi
1000	(ótù) púkú	Yī qiān
1001	púkú nà out	yī qiān líng yī
1,200	púkú nà nàrì àbúọ	yī qiān èrbǎi
10,000	púkú ìrì	Yī wàn
11,000	púkú ìrì nà ótù púkú	yī wàn yī qiān
19,000	púkú ìrì nà púkú ìtéghété	yī wàn jiǔqiān
20,000	púkú ìrì àbúọ	Èrwàn
90,000	púkú ìrì ìtéghété	Jiǔwàn
100,000	púkú nàrì	Shí wàn
1,000,000	Ndè	yī bǎi wàn
2,000,000	ndè àbúọ	èrbǎi wàn
100,000,000	ndè nàrì	Yīyì
200,000,000	ndè nàrì àbúọ	Èryì
1,000,000,000	ndè púkú /ìjèrì	Shíyì

## Analysis of Igbo Numeral System

In the new standard orthography, the Igbo numerals are based on the metric system. Learning to count in Igbo is as simple as learning to count from one to ten. With this foundation, it is easy to count in multiples of tens (iri), hundreds (nari), thousands (puku), millions (nde) and billions (njeri). If you can count in English, you can count in Igbo. All you need to do is to count up to 10 and start adding 1,2,3...to 9 to make  $10+1=11$  and  $10+9=19$ , the next number will be 20 called two tens (iri abuo). See the table 2 below for further examples and clarification.

In Igbo numeral system there are some rules. Tens are formed by setting the multiplier digit before the word for ten (iri) separated with a space, except for ten itself, for examples, iri (10), iri abuo (20)...iri iteghete (90). See table 2 below for further examples and clarification. Compound numbers are formed by saying/writing the ten, then the coordinator 'na' (and), and the unit, for examples, iri na otu (11), iri ato na ano (34). Hundreds are formed by setting the multiplier digit after the word for hundred (nari), except for one hundred, for examples: nari (100), nari abuo (200)...nari iteghete (900). Thousands are formed by setting multiplier digit after the word for thousand (puku), except for one thousand, for examples: puku (1000), puku abuo (2000)...puku iteghete (9000). Millions and billions are formed the same way, by setting the multiplier digit after the scale word, for examples: nde (1millions), nde abuo (2 million)...nde iteghete (9million); ijeri (1 billion), ijeri abuo (2 billion)...ijeri iteghete (9 billion). Finally, in Igbo numeral system, each group of numbers is linked to the others with 'na' (and), for examples: iri abuo nd ise (25), nari na iri asa (160), puku na nari abuo na iri ato na ano (1,234).

**Table 2: Igbo Numeral System**

Number	Reading	Meaning
0	efu	0
1	otu	1
2	abua	2
3	ato	3
4	ano	4
5	ise	5
6	isii	6
7	asaa	7
8	asato	8
9	iteghete	9

10	iri	10
11	iri na otu	10 and 1
12	iri na abu.a	10 and 2
13	iri na ato.	10 and 3
14	iri na ano.	10 and 4
15	iri na ise	10 and 5
16	iri na isii	10 and 6
17	iri na asaa	10 and 7
18	iri na asato	10 and 8
19	iri na iteghete	10 and 9
20	iri abua	$10 \times 2$
21	iri abua na otu	$(10 \times 2)$ and 1
22	iri abua na abua	$(10 \times 2)$ and 2
23	iri abu.a na ato	$(10 \times 2)$ and 3
24	iri abua na ano	$(10 \times 2)$ and 4
25	iri abua na ise	$(10 \times 2)$ and 5
26	iri abua na isii	$(10 \times 2)$ and 6
27	iri abua na asaa	$(10 \times 2)$ and 7
28	iri abua na asato	$(10 \times 2)$ and 8
29	iri abua na iteghete	$(10 \times 2)$ and 9
30	iri ato	$10 \times 3$
31	iri ato na otu	$(10 \times 3)$ and 1
32	iri ato na abua	$(10 \times 3)$ and 2
33	iri ato na ato	$(10 \times 3)$ and 3
34	iri ato na ano	$(10 \times 3)$ and 4
35	iri ato na ise	$(10 \times 3)$ and 5
36	iri ato na isii	$(10 \times 3)$ and 6
37	iri ato na asaa	$(10 \times 3)$ and 7
38	iri ato na asato.	$(10 \times 3)$ and 8
39	iri ato na iteghete	$(10 \times 3)$ and 9
40	iri ano	$10 \times 4$
41	iri ano na otu	$(10 \times 4)$ and 1
42	iri ano na abua	$(10 \times 4)$ and 2
43	iri ano na ato	$(10 \times 4)$ and 3

44	iri ano na ano	$(10 \times 4)$ and 4
45	iri ano na ise	$(10 \times 4)$ and 5
46	iri ano na isii	$(10 \times 4)$ and 6
47	iri ano na asaa	$(10 \times 4)$ and 7
48	iri ano na asato	$(10 \times 4)$ and 8
49	iri ano na iteghete	$(10 \times 4)$ and 9
50	iri ise	$10 \times 5$
51	iri ise na otu	$(10 \times 5)$ and 1
52	iri ise na abua	$(10 \times 5)$ and 2
53	iri ise na ato	$(10 \times 5)$ and 3
54	iri ise na ano	$(10 \times 5)$ and 4
55	iri ise na ise	$(10 \times 5)$ and 5
56	iri ise na isii	$(10 \times 5)$ and 6
57	iri ise na asaa	$(10 \times 5)$ and 7
58	iri ise na asato	$(10 \times 5)$ and 8
59	iri ise na iteghete	$(10 \times 5)$ and 9
60	iri isii	$10 \times 6$
61	iri isii na out	$(10 \times 6)$ and 1
62	iri isii na abua	$(10 \times 6)$ and 2
63	iri isii na ato	$(10 \times 6)$ and 3
64	iri isii na ano	$(10 \times 6)$ and 4
65	iri isii na ise	$(10 \times 6)$ and 5
66	iri isii na isii	$(10 \times 6)$ and 6
67	iri isii na asaa	$(10 \times 6)$ and 7
68	iri isii na asato	$(10 \times 6)$ and 8
69	iri isii na iteghete	$(10 \times 6)$ and 9
70	iri asaa	$10 \times 7$
71	iri asaa na out	$(10 \times 7)$ and 1
72	iri asaa na abua	$(10 \times 7)$ and 2
73	iri asaa na ato	$(10 \times 7)$ and 3
74	iri asaa na ano	$(10 \times 7)$ and 4
75	iri asaa na ise	$(10 \times 7)$ and 5
76	iri asaa na isii	$(10 \times 7)$ and 6
77	iri asaa na asaa	$(10 \times 7)$ and 7

78	iri asaa na asato	(10 × 7) and 8
79	iri asaa na iteghete	(10 × 7) and 9
80	iri asato	10 × 8
81	iri asato na out	(10 × 8) and 1
82	iri asato na abua	(10 × 8) and 2
83	iri asato na ato	(10 × 8) and 3
84	iri asato na ano	(10 × 8) and 4
85	iri asato na ise	(10 × 8) and 5
86	iri asato na isii	(10 × 8) and 6
87	iri asato na asaa	(10 × 8) and 7
88	iri asato na asato	(10 × 8) and 8
89	iri asato na iteghete	(10 × 8) and 9
90	iri iteghete	10 × 9
91	iri iteghete na out	(10 × 9) and 1
92	iri iteghete na abua	(10 × 9) and 2
93	iri iteghete na ato	(10 × 9) and 3
94	iri iteghete na ano	(10 × 9) and 4
95	iri iteghete na ise	(10 × 9) and 5
96	iri iteghete na isii	(10 × 9) and 6
97	iri iteghete na asaa	(10 × 9) and 7
98	iri iteghete na asato	(10 × 9) and 8
99	iri iteghete na iteghete	(10 × 9) and 9
100	Nari	100

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### Analysis of Chinese Numeral System

The Chinese numeral system has characters (symbols) that correspond to the numbers zero to nine. The Chinese numeral system also has special characters to represent ten (十), hundred (百), thousand (千), ten thousand (万). For instance, the number 75 is written in Chinese using the characters 7, 10, and 5; that is 七十五. In chinese numeral system, you need to say that you have 7 tens first. 7 tens is how 70 is represented. You cannot say say 75 as 七五. Another example, 893 is written as 8 hundreds, 9 tens and 3. This is how 893 is written in chinese 八百九十三.

Another thing to know in chinese numeral system is what we will call the ‘zero rule’. If a number ends in zeros, you do not need to include the zero character. However, if a zero digit does not end a number you need to include the zero character. For examples, the number 890 is written as 八百九十 (8 hundreds, 9 tens), the number 809 is written as

八百零九 (8 hundreds, zero, nine). The zero character is included in this situation. The number 1004 is written as 一千零四 (1 thousands, zero, four). If a zero digit is followed by one or more zero digits, only one zero character is used.

**Table 3: Chinese Numbering System**

Number	Character	Reading	Meaning
0	零	Líng	0
1	一	Yī	1
2	二	Èr	2
3	三	Sān	3
4	四	Sì	4
5	五	Wǔ	5
6	六	Liù	6
7	七	Qī	7
8	八	Bā	8
9	九	Jiǔ	9
10	十	Shí	10
11	十一	Shíyī	10 + 1
12	十二	Shíèr	10 + 2
13	十三	Shí sān	10 + 3
14	十四	Shí sì	10 + 4
15	十五	Shí wǔ	10 + 5
16	十六	Shí liù	10 + 6
17	十七	Shí qī	10 + 7
18	十八	Shí bā	10 + 8
19	十九	Shí jiǔ	10 + 9
20	二十	Èrshí	2 × 10
21	二十一	èrshí yī	2 × 10* + 1

22	二十二	èrshi èr	$2 \times 10^* + 2$
23	二十三	èrshi sān	$2 \times 10^* + 3$
24	二十四	èrshi sì	$2 \times 10^* + 4$
25	二十五	èrshi wǔ	$2 \times 10^* + 5$
26	二十六	èrshi liù	$2 \times 10^* + 6$
27	二十七	èrshi qī	$2 \times 10^* + 7$
28	二十八	èrshi bā	$2 \times 10^* + 8$
29	二十九	èrshi jiǔ	$2 \times 10^* + 9$
30	三十	Sānshí	$3 \times 10$
31	三十一	sānshi yī	$3 \times 10^* + 1$
32	三十二	sānshi èr	$3 \times 10^* + 2$
33	三十三	sānshi sān	$3 \times 10^* + 3$
34	三十四	sānshi sì	$3 \times 10^* + 4$
35	三十五	sānshi wǔ	$3 \times 10^* + 5$
36	三十六	sānshi liù	$3 \times 10^* + 6$
37	三十七	sānshi qī	$3 \times 10^* + 7$
38	三十八	sānshi bā	$3 \times 10^* + 8$
39	三十九	sānshi jiǔ	$3 \times 10^* + 9$
40	四十	Sìshí	$4 \times 10$
41	四十一	sìshi yī	$4 \times 10^* + 1$
42	四十二	sìshi èr	$4 \times 10^* + 2$
43	四十三	sìshi sān	$4 \times 10^* + 3$
44	四十四	sìshi sì	$4 \times 10^* + 4$
45	四十五	sìshi wǔ	$4 \times 10^* + 5$
46	四十六	sìshi liù	$4 \times 10^* + 6$
47	四十七	sìshi qī	$4 \times 10^* + 7$
48	四十八	sìshi bā	$4 \times 10^* + 8$
49	四十九	sìshi jiǔ	$4 \times 10^* + 9$

50	五十	Wǔshí	$5 \times 10$
51	五十一	wǔshí yī	$5 \times 10^* + 1$
52	五十二	wǔshí èr	$5 \times 10^* + 2$
53	五十三	wǔshí sān	$5 \times 10^* + 3$
54	五十四	wǔshí sì	$5 \times 10^* + 4$
55	五十五	wǔshí wǔ	$5 \times 10^* + 5$
56	五十六	wǔshí liù	$5 \times 10^* + 6$
57	五十七	wǔshí qī	$5 \times 10^* + 7$
58	五十八	wǔshí bā	$5 \times 10^* + 8$
59	五十九	wǔshí jiǔ	$5 \times 10^* + 9$
60	六十	liùshí	$6 \times 10$
61	六十一	liùshí yī	$6 \times 10^* + 1$
62	六十二	liùshí èr	$6 \times 10^* + 2$
63	六十三	liùshí sān	$6 \times 10^* + 3$
64	六十四	liùshí sì	$6 \times 10^* + 4$
65	六十五	liùshí wǔ	$6 \times 10^* + 5$
66	六十六	liùshí liù	$6 \times 10^* + 6$
67	六十七	liùshí qī	$6 \times 10^* + 7$
68	六十八	liùshí bā	$6 \times 10^* + 8$
69	六十九	liùshí jiǔ	$6 \times 10^* + 9$
70	七十	qīshí	$7 \times 10$
71	七十一	qīshí yī	$7 \times 10^* + 1$
72	七十二	qīshí èr	$7 \times 10^* + 2$
73	七十三	qīshí sān	$7 \times 10^* + 3$
74	七十四	qīshí sì	$7 \times 10^* + 4$
75	七十五	qīshí wǔ	$7 \times 10^* + 5$
76	七十六	qīshí liù	$7 \times 10^* + 6$
77	七十七	qīshí qī	$7 \times 10^* + 7$

78	七十八	qīshí bā	$7 \times 10^* + 8$
79	七十九	qīshí jiǔ	$7 \times 10^* + 9$
80	八十	bāshí	$8 \times 10$
81	八十一	bāshí yī	$8 \times 10^* + 1$
82	八十二	bāshí èr	$8 \times 10^* + 2$
83	八十三	bāshí sān	$8 \times 10^* + 3$
84	八十四	bāshí sì	$8 \times 10^* + 4$
85	八十五	bāshí wǔ	$8 \times 10^* + 5$
86	八十六	bāshí liù	$8 \times 10^* + 6$
87	八十七	bāshí qī	$8 \times 10^* + 7$
88	八十八	bāshí bā	$8 \times 10^* + 8$
89	八十九	bāshí jiǔ	$8 \times 10^* + 9$
90	九十	jiǔshí	$9 \times 10$
91	九十一	jiǔshí yī	$9 \times 10^* + 1$
92	九十二	jiǔshí èr	$9 \times 10^* + 2$
93	九十三	jiǔshí sān	$9 \times 10^* + 3$
94	九十四	jiǔshí sì	$9 \times 10^* + 4$
95	九十五	jiǔshí wǔ	$9 \times 10^* + 5$
96	九十六	jiǔshí liù	$9 \times 10^* + 6$
97	九十七	jiǔshí qī	$9 \times 10^* + 7$
98	九十八	jiǔshí bā	$9 \times 10^* + 8$
99	九十九	jiǔshí jiǔ	$9 \times 10^* + 9$
100	一百	yìbǎi	$1^* \times 100$

## Findings and Conclusion

From this study, we found out some differences between Igbo and Chinese numeral systems. Igbo numeral system unlike Chinese numeral system makes use of coordinator 'na' (and) to link hundreds and tens, thousands and hundreds, etc. Chinese numeral system unlike Igbo numeral system has ten thousand (万) as counting unit. The way Igbo and Chinese languages represent 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 is different. In Igbo numeral system, 20 is 'iri abuo' ( $10 \times 2$ ) and 90 is 'iri iteghete' ( $10 \times 9$ ). In Chinese numeral system, 20 is 'ershi' ( $2 \times 10$ ) and 90 is 'jiushi' ( $9 \times 10$ ). Again there are differences in Igbo and Chinese ways of saying 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, for examples: 100 '(otu) nari' (Igbo), 'yi bai' (chinese); 500 'nari ise' (Igbo), 'wu bai' (chinese). In Igbo and Chinese numerals have opposite ways of saying 200-900, in Igbo the pattern is  $100 \times 5 = 500$  but in Chinese the reverse is the case,  $5 \times 100 = 500$ . In Igbo numeral, 100 can be written as '(otu) nari' unlike in Chinese numeral where one (1) must be represented as in 'yi bai'.

With the rate Chinese economy is fast growing and the establishments of Confucius institutes around the world which promotes the teaching and learning of Chinese language (Mandarin) to the world. It is also necessary to promote Igbo language to the Chinese scholars and students. This research on the translation of Igbo and Chinese numeral systems will be of great help in understanding the numbering and counting systems of the Nigerian and Chinese societies. It will also be of help in creating mutual understanding between the two nations especially in the area of business and transaction.

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