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The aim of this journal is to publish articles that enrich the practice of marketing development particularly in Sub-Sahara Africa while simultaneously making significant contributions to the advancement of the discipline. Preference is given to manuscripts that relate across marketing development in business, service industries, nations and economies. All articles appearing in the journal are double-blind refereed

It should be noted that research is not the only basis for an acceptable article. Case analyses, creative concepts and applications, book reviews, industry reviews, commentaries, and other thought-provoking manuscripts are encouraged. Particularly welcome are future-oriented manuscripts that offer marketers visions of development in the twenty-first century and practical road maps for getting there. Also encouraged are manuscripts that address interdisciplinary topics or approach "traditional" topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. Authors with papers intended for publication are expected to conform to the following guideline:

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- must have a structured abstract of not more than 200 words. Abstract should define the purpose of the study, approach/methodology, findings, implications and originality.
- 4 should have at least four keywords
- 5 not exceed 3000 words or 25 pages of double line spacing on A-4 paper. All margins should be 1 each or 2.5cm
- words cited in the paper should follow the Harvard system of author's last name and year, and to be mentioned in appropriate places, for instance Josh (2009) for summarized sources, and Josh (2009, P.2) for direct quotation. At the end of the paper, the list of authors
- 7 all Tables and figures should be placed at the appropriate and not as index

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IMPACT OF SEMIOTICS ON THE AWARENESS OF ANTI-MALARIA DRUGS AMONG RURAL DWELLERS IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF KWARA STATE

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of semiotics on the awareness of anti-malaria drugs among rural dwellers in some selected local government areas of Kwara State. Majority of these rural dwellers do not pay the required attention to several forms of advertising due to their nonchalant attitude and therefore cannot feel the impact of advertising messages. The objective of this study is to examine the relationship between semiotic advertising messages and the level of awareness of anti-malaria drugs among old people in Kwara State. Descriptive survey was adopted for the study and the study population comprised of old people whose ages fall between sixty (60) and eighty (80) years in Ifelodun, Moro and Ilorin South local government areas of Kwara State. One research hypothesis was designed on a five likert scale of agreement. The null hypothesis formulated was tested using multiple regression analysis and was rejected because the Fcalculated value for the study was 5.68E+03 with significant value of 0.000, since the significant value is less than 5% it implies that semiotics has significant impact on the awareness of antimalaria drugs in Kwara State. It was concluded that mosquitoes' image at the back of antimalaria pack as a sign simply indicates to a lay man that mosquitoes' bite is dangerous. The study therefore recommended that companies producing anti-malaria drugs should sustain and strengthen the use of image being a very cheap, reliable and effective means of advertising the

Keywords: Semiotics, awareness, anti-malaria drugs, rural dwellers

Introduction

Advertising has been observed by many to be the major way of creating awareness about a product, but a lot of rural dwellers may not really understand its content probably due to the fact that majority of them are non-literate. However, the inability of not understanding the content of advertising by these rural people do not mean that sellers or producers of products that need to be advertised would not embark on it at right time, place and to the right people. This has to be done methodically in a manner that would be better understood by these rural people. Martin (2012) posited that the main aim of advertising is to bring attitudinal changes in the minds of the consumer which is done by imparting knowledge to the consumer by touching his or her emotions and playing with the feeling of likes and dislikes towards products, handled in a manner that leads to action/ purchase.

However, the use of semiotics in advertising which involves images, sound, texts as well as process as have clearly shown that rural people are interested and inquisitive about signs or

symbols being used in advertising. Signs or symbols signify the advertiser's massage which will be better understood by the rural dwellers more than other forms of advertising that involve only talking. Sound (jingle) also plays a significant role in advertising anti-malaria drugs unlike other commercials; it can stay in people's minds for years (Jones, 2001). People are more prone to remember information from commercials accompanied by singing compared to those that just include talking. The main reason why commercial jingles work is that music has more powerful effect on our emotions (Jones, 2001). Specifically, old people in the rural areas whose ages fall between sixty (60) and eighty (80) years see images regularly and easily understand its meanings more than jingles.

According to Tim (2012), there are four types of awareness which comprises of mental, emotional, environmental and physical. Among the four, mental awareness is concerned with the ability to know and understand what happens around someone which is an important function around the other three types. Majority rural people in Ifelodun (Kwara South), Ilorin South (Kwara Central) as well as Moro (Kwara North) need to be aware of possible negative health consequences of mosquitoes' bites so as to put preventive measures such as using musquitoe nets, spraying the house with insecticides as well as disallowing stagnant water around places of abode. It is therefore very necessary to alleviate ignorance through the use of semiotics which strongly demonstrate even to a lay man, the real meaning of the message the advertiser intends to pass across (Yahya, 2013). Awareness creation must be embarked upon at the right time, place and be simple and able to catch the attention these rural dwellers. These people do not see the need to pay much attention to listening to any form of advertising that involve only talking because much of their attention is being paid to activities like feeding so that they can live long and healthy, taking care of their grandchildren, as well as sharing or telling old stories to the younger ones.

Statement of the Problem

Majority of rural dwellers most especially the uneducated ones in Ifelodun, Ilorin South and Moro local government areas of Kwara State are ignorant of dosage, efficacy, effectiveness, availability, affordability and easy administration of anti-malaria drugs as a result of not paying required attention to advertising messages. Various forms of advertising on malaria transmitted through several media such as radio, television, posters, handbills, as well as newspapers have not been able to adequately address this nonchalant attitude of these old people towards the acceptability of the modern anti-malaria drugs because they cannot properly feel its impact. Perhaps because they feel that anti-malaria drugs are commonly found in all the nooks and crannies of Kwara State. Semiotics therefore makes signs and symbols as proofs of messages being passed that has meaning to lay man. It should be noted that majority of these rural dwellers (especially the uneducated ones) do not attach much importance to using anti-malaria drugs because of costs involved, inadequate awareness, nonchalant attitude as well as primitive nature of their life style. The level of ignorance about anti-malaria drugs among these old people in the study area is very high because these people dogmatically believe in what they know and are not willing to seek knowledge about what they do not know unless they are strongly persuaded and influenced to do so through semiotics advertising strategy.

Research Question

Is there any significant relationship between semiotic advertising messages and the degree of awareness of anti-malaria drugs among old people in Kwara State?

Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to examine the relationship between semiotic advertising messages and the level of awareness of anti-malaria drugs among old people in Kwara State.

Research Hypothesis

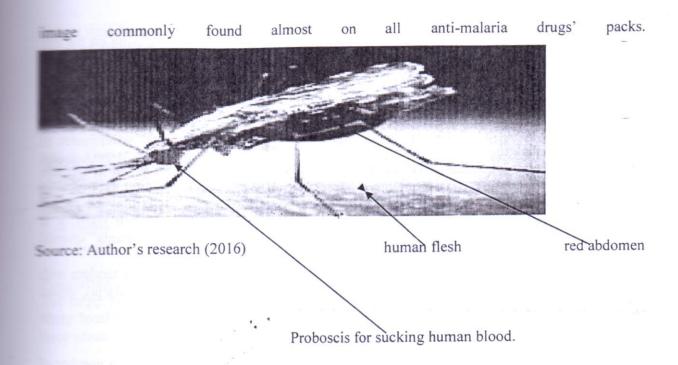
H_o: there is no significant relationship between semiotic advertising messages and the level of awareness of anti-malaria drugs among old people in Kwara State.

Literature Review

Semiotics is applicable in advertising because it makes use of meanings, codes, signifiers such as images and words as well as exploration of culture. Advertising is measured through behavioural response, awareness, motivation and interest or as a result of impact of the medium in which it is offered. Advertisers therefore must try to construct texts that are easily recognizable and sufficiently compelling to viewers in order to ginger them to understand, (Maggio-Muller & Evans, 2008). Peirce (2014) opined that nothing is a sign unless it is interpreted as a sign. This interpretation is by relating a sign to familiar systems of conventions and, hence, the sign becomes part of an organized collective of interactions and cannot exist outside such a collective. Signs function as a code between individuals and they trigger or "unlock" previous experiences (Cobley & Jansz, 2000). In short, a human being functions as a "homo significans," that is to say, as a meaning-maker who uses signs to receive, understand, and convey information. Estenfany (2015) posited that a sign is anything which makes meaning to people when they see or hear it. This has two aspects: signifier is the material that has a meaning while signified is the meaning. Louis (2014) cited the three main signifiers for traffic signal colours: 'go' for green, 'prepare to stop' for yellow, and 'stop' for red. Other examples of semiotics in advertising include a picture of a skull and crossbones next to a pack of cigarettes could be used to advertise the harmful nature of cigarette smoking (Image) and a positive message can also be conveyed to endorse a political candidate, using words such as "bravery" or "conservative" to set the candidate apart from his opponents (Text). Others can be in form of sound (jingles) as well as process.

Anti-malaria Drugs' Semiotics

The major anti-malaria drug semiotics is the use of mosquitoes biting and sucking blood from the flesh of human beings thereby transmitting malaria into it. However, this is clearly demonstrated through the malaria is the sign showing presence of mosquitoes, mosquitoe as an object/sign-vehicle that carries the disease and the red abdomen filled with human blood as the interpretant which gives a very simple understanding to even a lay man that mosquitoes suck blood and transmit malaria to man. Hence, the red abdomen of blood-sucking insect is the code which indicates the health danger that mosquitoes are capable of causing in man, usually if not treated at the right time, it results to untimely death (Wikipedia, 2015). The anti-malaria semiotics is usually and conspicuously shown at the back of anti-malaria drug pack. The following diagram shows the image commonly found almost on all anti-malaria drugs' packs.



Awareness

Awareness is the ability to perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects, thoughts, emotions, or sensory patterns (Wikipedia, 2014). Creating awareness as one of the objectives of advertising is very crucial which communicate the product's name and other important messages and to the product. In addition, customers will make purchase of a particular product if they are repeatedly exposed and delivery is very consistent over time (Neil, 2013). This will surely bring about brand equity that would lead to stronger products' reputation, high degree of profit and overall brand value. According to Lea (2015) product awareness consists of customer knowledge of brand benefits, features, slogan, tag lines and other business messaging elements.

Anti-malaria Drugs' Awareness

Although anti-malaria drugs are not new to the people, it has been in existence for a very long time but majority of old people in Kwara State are not adequately aware of the importance the drugs over anti-malaria herbal medicines they are dogmatically used to. They find it very difficult to seek knowledge about what they don't know because they devout most of their time to farming, taking care of their grandchildren and telling old stories to younger ones at home. But anti-malaria drugs' awareness creation through semiotics is very simple, easy to understand, absolutely cheap as well as easily catching the attention of every buyer of the drugs. Even a lay man can easily interpret the meaning of the image at the back of almost all anti-malaria drugs' packs (Louis, 2014)

Theoretical Framework

The following theories have been adopted as a support because they are in tandem with the research topic.

Self-awareness theory

People tend to focus attention on the self or on the external environment. Focusing on the self enables self-evaluation which makes them compare the self with standards of correctness that specify how the self ought to think, feel, and behave. This process allows people to change their behavior and to experience pride and dissatisfaction with the self. Self-awareness is thus a major mechanism of self-control (Paul, & Guido, 2001)

Peirce's theory of signs

The theory holds that all modes of thinking depend on the use of signs. Every thought is a sign, and every act of reasoning consists of the interpretation of signs. Signs function as mediators between the external world of objects and the internal world of ideas. Signs may be mental representations of objects, which can be known by means of perception of their signs. It is therefore a process of cooperation between signs, their objects, and their "interpretants" -mental representations (Peirce, 2014)

The study therefore adopted Peirce's theory of signs as a support because it is in tandem with how semiotics works as well as showing a mutual relationship between sign (malaria), object (mosqutoe) and interpretant (red abdomen of the mosqutoe).

Empirical framework

There are several studies carried out in related fields in which this study reviewed a number of them, these include:

Philip & Macro (2004) examined the effects of advertising on awareness, consideration and brand choice using tracking data, using weekly data on advertising expenditures in various media and response data on awareness, consideration and choice and tested the hierarchy of effects hypothesis. Empirical results were based on a simultaneous equations model with pooled parameters across brands which suggest that the null hypothesis be rejected convincingly. Considering a vector error correction model with pooled parameters to find out if there are dynamic effects of advertising, most advertising effects exist for awareness, although at the same time there are effects for choice. Newspaper advertising turns out to be most influential.

Robert, Ulrich & Michaela (2009) examined the effect of advertising on brand awareness and perceived quality using panel data. Panel data set was used to combine annual brand-level advertising expenditures for over three hundred brands with measures of brand awareness and perceived quality from a large-scale consumer survey to study the effect of advertising. Findings indicated that advertising has consistently a significant positive effect on brand awareness but no significant effect on perceived quality

Methodology

Kwara State is located in the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria with sixteen local government areas in which Ifelodun, Ilorin South and Moro are parts of them. The major language spoken is Yoruba. The degree of awareness of anti-malaria drugs by old people in these local government areas is low because majority of them believe in the use of local anti-malaria herbal medicines thereby do not see the need to have knowledge of the workings and efficacy of modern drugs to cure malaria.

Methodology for the study is hereby presented with the variables from literature review, instrument, methods of data administration and analysis. Structured questionnaire was used to

reas of Kwara State The study made use of two sets of variables: awareness (dependent) variables and semiotics (independent) variables. Multiple regression analysis was used to predict dependent variable from a linear function of a set of independent variables.

Model Specification

determining the impact of semiotics on awareness of anti-malaria drugs among old people in selected local government areas of Kwara State, a model was formulated that is considered relevant to the data collected using inferential statistics. The model is given below as:

$$Y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_n) + e$$

Where Y represents awareness of anti-malaria drugs

 $X_1 = Image$

 $X_2 = Sound$

Population of the Study

The target population of the study is all the rural dwellers of Ifelodun, Ilorin South as well as Moro local government areas of Kwara State. This shows that the population cuts across the three senatorial districts in Kwara State.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The target population is infinite and for the purpose of having a reliable sample size, the study made use of a formula developed by Godden (2014) where the infinite population is greater than 50,000 and arrived at 216 respondents. Therefore, each of the three local government areas has 72 respondents to questionnaire and research assistants were employed in the three local government areas to harvest the views of the respondents because majority of these old people are illiterates. In the whole, two hundred copies of questionnaire were returned on which the sample size was based.

$$\frac{Z^2 \times (p) \times (1-p)}{C^2}$$

SS = Sample Size

Z = Z-valueA (e.g., 1.96 for a 95 percent confidence level)

P = Percentage of population picking a choice, expressed as decimal

C = Confidence interval, expressed as decimal (e.g., <math>.04 = +/-4 percentage points)

$$\frac{3.8416 \times .9 \times .1}{.0016}$$
 = 216 rural dwellers

Research Instrument

Close-ended copies of questionnaires were developed and distributed to the respondents which consisted of three survey items which include Bio data, Semiotics as well as Awareness creation. Five (5) points likert scale was therefore used to measure the strength of responses. The coding was carried out as follows: 5 being strongly agreed, 4 agreed, 3 undecideds, 2 disagreed, 1 strongly disagreed.

Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings

In order to analyze the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between semiotics via the use of images as well as sound and the degree of awareness of anti-malaria drugs among rural people in Ifelodun, Ilorin South and Moro local government areas of Kwata State. Multiple regression analysis was employed and presented in table 1 below.

Table I

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1 -	.991a	0.983	0.983	1.28812		

Predictors: (Constant), Sound, Image

(Author's Computation, 2016)

Multiple regression analysis was employed to determine the impact of semiotics (image, sound) on awareness of anti-malaria drugs in Kwara State. Table 1 represents the result of the overall awareness of anti-malaria drugs that was regressed against semiotics derived from the study. Image and sound are independent variables which accounted for 98.3% of awareness of anti-malaria drugs in Kwara State while the remaining 1.7% were exogenous variables that were not covered by the model.

The equation characteristics of awareness indicated a moderate R² of 0.983. This showed that 98.3% of the variation in "awareness" was explained by this equation, while the remaining 1.7% was explained by other variables not considered by the model

Table II ANOVA^b

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	18836.28	2	9418.142	5.68E+03	.000a
	Residual	326.871	197	1.659		100000
53: 55: 5km	Total	19163.16	199	erection to educate	Piloven No Go	470111.00 17

a. Predictors: (Constant), Sound, Image

Dependent Variable: Awareness

(Author's Computation, 2016)

The analysis of the above table shows regression sum of square value of (18836.28) which is higher than the residual sum of square value of (326.871). The significant value of P (0.000) is less than (0.05) which means that independent variable (semiotics) to a large extent accounts for the variations in the dependent variable (awareness). Therefore there is a significant relationship between semiotics and awareness of anti-malaria drugs

Table III
Coefficients^a

-		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		-	
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	Т	Sig.	
1	(Constant)	-1.142	0.646		-1.768	0.079	
	IMAGES	0.703	0.03	0.615	23.64	0	
	SOUND	0.335	0.022	0.393	15.106	0	

Dependent Variable: AWARENESS

(Author's Computation, 2016)

The coefficient table was used to test if each of the two independent variables contributes to the predator of the dependent variable 'awareness'. The t value in the study was found to be significant at 0.05. The two factors emerged to be significant (Sig. T <0.05) independent variables in the regression model.

The result on 'image' is positively correlated with awareness of anti-malaria drugs. This means that image enhances awareness creation about anti-malaria drugs by 70.3% of the total sample at 5% significant level. It was also found out that the result on 'sound' shows positive correlation between awareness and sound. This implies that an increase in the use of sound would bring about 33.5% increase in awareness creation on anti-malaria drugs. The magnitude of beta coefficient for sound is statistically significant at 5%.

Conclusion and recommendation

For impact of semiotics on awareness of anti-malaria drugs to be more successful than it is, image of mosquitoes which serves as a sign indicating that mosquitoes is capable of causing malaria in man and its infection is dangerous should be strengthened more. There is also the need to encourage the use of sound (jingle). The study therefore recommends that the use of semiotics should be intensified so as to create more awareness about anti-malaria drugs. Specifically, companies producing anti-malaria drugs should further intensify their efforts on the usage of image as a means of advertising than sound (jingle) because it is absolutely cheaper and easier to understand by a lay man. This will create adequate awareness about anti-malaria drugs and consequently increase its sales.

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APPENDIX

Model Summary

TITOGOT .	O 68 111 111 66 1	J		
			-	Std.
			Adjusted	Error of
		R	R	the
Model	R	Square	Square	Estimate
1	.991ª	0.983	0.983	1.28812

a. Predictors: (Constant), SOUND,

IMAGES

ANOVA^b

Mo	del	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	18836.28	2	9418.142	5.68E+03	.000a
	Residual	326.871	197	1.659		
	Total	19163.16	199			

a. Predictors: (Constant), SOUND,

IMAGES

b. Dependent

Variable:

AWARENESS

Coefficientsa

	Coefficientsa						
-			Unstandardiz Coefficients	ed	Standardized Coefficients		Yen
	Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
	1	(Constant)	-1.142	0.646	S	1.768	0.079
		IMAGES	0.703	0.03	0.615	23.64	0
١		SOUND	0.335	0.022	0.393	15.106	0

Dependent Variable: AWARENESS

(Author's Computation, 2016)

Coefficients^a

000	HITCHCHES		*			
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
			Std.			
Mod	del	В	Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	1.142	0.646		1.768	0.079
	IMAGES	0.703	0.03	0.615	23.64	0
	SOUND	0.335	0.022	0.393	15.106	0

a. Dependent

Variable:

AWARENESS

$$SS = \frac{Z^2 x (p) x (1-p)}{C^2}$$

SS = Sample Size

Z = Z-valueA (e.g., 1.96 for a 95 percent confidence level)

P = Percentage of population picking a choice, expressed as decimal

C = Confidence interval, expressed as decimal (e.g., .04 = +/-4 percentage points)

 $SS = 3.8416 \times .9 \times .1 = 216 \text{ rural dwellers}$.0016

