

**Title of Article:** Citizenship, Participation and CMD: The case of Nigeria.

**Author(s):** Chiluwa, I.

**Outlet:** *Pragmatics and Society* (John Benjamins, Amsterdam) Vol. 3(1)

**Date:** 2012

**Abstract:** This study examines civic engagement in the social media by Nigerians and how they applied certain discursive pragmatics strategies to promote social and political participation. As a hosting website with social networking and blogging activities, *NaijaPals* maintains an online community, with *Nolitics* as a discussion forum solely dedicated to social and political debate. Members exchange information and engage in critical analysis of Nigeria's political system. A total of 104 'posts' are analyzed in the framework of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The analysis highlights the roles of political discourse in *Nolitics*, mainly as social critique with the aim of shaping political leadership and involving the citizens in political governance. Discourse in this context is viewed as discursive social practice, in the form of political propaganda; anti-corruption campaigns; socio-political mobilization; and recommendations for growth, all of these mediated in written texts. The analyses also show that metaphors, directive speech acts and questioning are used as discursive strategies.