

**Title of Article:** SMS Text-Messaging and the Nigerian Christian Context: Constructing Values and Sentiments.”

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

**Outlet :** *International Journal of Language, Society & Culture, (IJLSC)*  
(University of Tasmania, Australia) Issue 24,

**Date:** 2008

**Abstract:** SMS text-messages are viewed as discourses that presuppose speech events among interlocutors that share a common social behaviour and cultural values. This study shows the extent to which text-messaging constructs Christian values, belief systems and sentiments in Nigeria. Fifty-three (53) text samples collected in Lagos and Ota areas of Southwest Nigeria between 2005 and 2007 are analysed within the framework of computer-mediated discourse analysis (Herring 2001). Result shows that with its peculiar orthographic convention and style, text-messaging has become popular among Christian adherents not just because it is short, cheap and fast but that it is individualistic and fits well into a context where respect for individuals is emphasized. Analysis also shows that SMS text-messaging is used to disseminate messages associated with faith-based pronouncements, prayer and well-wishing, admonition and assurance, appreciation and praise, season’s greetings and general information and announcements. These functions tend to promote love and cooperation among church members.