

3.1 TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

The Nigeria French Language Village is a real language laboratory. It is a language education setting, conceived and studied to enable a natural and pragmatic learning of French.

Generally, the Village adopts an eclectic approach to teaching. Emphasis is laid on methods that aim at enabling the learners to acquire the four essential language skills: understanding, speaking, reading and writing

Students acquire these four skills through interactive exercises and teaching techniques based on printed or multimedia documents that enable use of vocabulary, different registers and language codes.

Daily Francophone Environment

The Nigeria French Language Village recreates the conditions for a Francophone environment, which places the student in a language immersion situation.

Actually, majority of the Village's workforce are bilingual (French/English). Hence, students are naturally encouraged to speak French on daily basis.

Regular Broadcast of French Media

French radio and television programmes are broadcast live almost everywhere in the Village, e.g., in the classrooms, restaurants and hostels.

Socio-Educative Activities formally called "Activités Socio-Educatives", are equally one of the Ingredients of success in French language learning in the Nigeria French Language Village.

3.2 SOCIO-EDUCATIVE ACTIVITIES, SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

OBJECTIVES

Sporting and socio-educative activities are designed as the spring-board of French language learning, to further improve on the student's communicative competence.

As a matter of fact, give room for intensive practice of French. Examples abound: sports, games, debates, discussions, talk-shows, songs, films, drama, press-briefing, etc.

The activities, therefore, enhance language skills learning in diverse communication situations.

Every week, a theme is earmarked for the socio-educative activities as applied to diverse domains (sports, health, Religion, politics, education, culture etc). This enables the students to get used to the terminology related to the theme discussed and thereby enriching their vocabulary.

Excursions to neighbouring French-Speaking countries (Bénin and Togo) expose the students to the way of life, culture and practices of Francophone people.

By coming directly in contact with their French-speaking counterparts, the students are able to practice French in real life situations. They thereby get used to the lexicon and language structures of those countries.

The students visit places of interest in those Francophone towns and they are received by important personalities (in Bénin or in Togo) who discuss the theme of the week with them.

SCHEDULE

§ ***Socio-Educative Activities***

A programme is scheduled for every evening (Monday to Thursday) From 7.00pm

Weekly Talk-show is scheduled for every Friday, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

§ ***Sporting Activities***

Students are divided into two groups. For example, the table below shows the schedule for two groups:

Group 1	Mondays & Thursdays	5.30 - 7.00pm
Group 2	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	5.30 —7.00pm

Socio-educative and sporting activities are compulsory for all University, College of Education, Pre-degree Diploma and Module students. They carry equal units as other courses and, are counted in the final results.

§ ***Excursions***

Students are expected to participate in a day return excursion to the Republic of Benin as an integral part of their programme.

Excursions to the Republic of Bénin are compulsory for all University, College of Education, Pre-degree diploma and Module students. The excursion cost is included in the school fees. Students write an excursion report in partial fulfillment of their respective programmes. Each student must present an ECOWAS or international passport and a yellow card for this segment of the programme.

There is also the possibility of a 3-day excursion to Lomé (Republic of Togo) which students pay for. Such an excursion is optional as it is organized only for interested students.

3.3 EQUIPMENT AND TEACHING AIDS

§ **Lecture Rooms**

Lectures take place in classrooms located in:

- the Academic block
- the Language Resource Centre (which houses an amphitheatre and some lecturerooms).

The Language Resource Centre (LRC) of the Village also houses some equipment reflecting the latest Information and Communication technology (ICT) system and the most up-to-date teaching methods: library, language laboratory, simultaneous Interpretation studio, recording room and smart board room

§ **The Library**

The French Village library is one of the best-equipped francophone libraries in the Sub-region. It prides itself as specialized francophone library. Thus, students, lecturers and

even researchers from Institutions of higher learning in Nigeria consult the Village library for their academic and research work.

The library is divided into reference section, consultation section and reading room. As an annex to the library, a 90-seater reading room is reserved for children. There is also a modern audio-visual section that facilitates students' self-teaching. The Library is equipped with 18, 296 books, 866 pedagogical audio and video cassettes, 473 volumes of magazines and great scientific journals.

§ **The Language Laboratory**

The language laboratory is well equipped with sophisticated gadgets (cassette players, headphones and books) for the mastery of oral comprehension.

§ **Simultaneous Interpretation And Translation Studio**

This studio, exclusively used by students of the Post-Graduate Diploma in Translation and Interpretation is well equipped with microphones and headphones.

§ **Recording Room**

Radio and televised programme that will serve as teaching aids can be recorded in this room.

3.4 **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION**

The Nigeria French Language Village is not only a Centre for French Language Studies, but also, a centre for research and teachers' retraining. Therefore, it regularly publishes journals in French such as RENEF "*Revue nigériane d'études francaises*", "*Revue d'études Francaises des Enseignants et Chercheurs du Village*" (REFECV). The Centre organises conferences and trainings for teachers and researchers; the outcomes are usually published. (For example,