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Textualisation of Cyber Crime Techniques Among Yahoo Boys In Ikere Ekiti, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Cybercrime has become an unfettered source of income for youths globally, which has persistently drawn the attention of researchers, law enforcement and the general public. Due to economic challenges that are not only peculiar to Nigerians, cybercrime has become an organised crime among adolescents and youths to finance not only their lifestyle, but also to shoulder responsibilities. This has encouraged the use of discreet communication codes to perpetrate different kinds of cybercrimes. Anchored on social learning theory and consolidated with empirical data, this study unravels how Yahoo boys in Ikere Ekiti use textualisation techniques, i.e, deceptive scripts, persuasive language and fake identities to target and lure victims online. A mixed method of data collection and findings comprehends how Yahoo boys often learn and imitate techniques from peers, especially in language-based text, popularly called format. Investigating how observation, reinforcement and modelling generate and refine textual methods of cyber deception, this study emphasises the art of deceptive writing that is socially acquired and shared, transmitted within the substructures of cybercriminals in Ikere Ekiti. This study expands the discourse on the analysis of the communication techniques employed by cyberfraudsters to carry out their illegal activities online.

Keywords: Textualisation, Cyber Crime Techniques, Yahoo Boys, Ikere Ekiti, Nigeria.

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