

**PROFESSOR TAJUDEEN YAQUB SURAKAT – MEMBER,
NIGERIA ACADEMY OF LETTERS (MNAL); FELLOW
ENGLISH ACHOLARS’ ASSOCIATION OF NIGERA (FESAN);
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Professor Tajudeen Yaqub Surakat graduated from the Ahmadu Bello University (A.B.U.) Zaria with a B.A. (Honours) in English Language in 1981. He subsequently obtained his M.A. and PhD from the same institution. He was recruited as a Graduate Assistant in 1982 and he rose through the ranks to become a Professor of English Language and Developmental Linguistics in 2009.

Surakat is a polyglot who speaks English, Hausa, Nupe and Yoruba. He is also a non-fluent or incipient bilingual in Arabic and a few other Nigerian languages. This ability facilitates his research and scholarship in applied linguistics, translatology, contrastive and comparative studies because polyglottism is an asset both to the individual, cognitively speaking, and to the linguistic enterprise.

His teaching and research interests include: Theoretical and General Linguistics, Applicable Linguistics or Systemic Functional Linguistics, Developmental Psycholinguistics, Phonetics and Phonology, Translatology, Lexicography and so on.

Professor Surakat has trained thousands of scholars, linguists, language teachers and others, many of whom are now chief executives, lecturers and professors in their various organisations and institutions. For instance, between 1999 and 2024, he has successfully supervised 32 M.A. and 21 PhD dissertations and theses.

This eminent scholar has attended more than 60 conferences in Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Canada, Germany, England, Scotland, and the United States of America. These include: the International Systemic Functional Congress (ISFC); World Congress of Applied Linguistics (AILA); International Association for World Englishes (IAWE); Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States (LACUS); Society of Neuro-scientists of Africa (SONA); Neuro-Science Society of Nigeria (NSN); Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA); Literary Society of Nigeria (LSN); Systemic Functional Linguistic Association of Nigeria (SYSFLAN); Pragmatics Association of Nigeria (PrAN); Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN); West African Languages Congress (WALC) and the English Scholars' Association of Nigeria (ESAN, formerly NESA), and so on.

Prof. Surakat served as a Resource Person for the lexicographic project which culminated in *A Dictionary of Nigerian English Usage* edited by Adegbite et al (2014). He is now the Chief Editor of the ESAN team to produce the second, revised edition of the Dictionary (forthcoming, 2025). He served also as member of the editorial boards or as editorial consultant for the following journals: SAIWA – *A Journal of Communication*, A.B.U.

Zaria; Work-in-Progress – *A Journal of the English Department*, A.B.U. Zaria (1988 – 1991); *Journal of the IUIU*, Mbale – Uganda (2004 – 2006); Work-in-Progress, A.B.U. Zaria (2016 – 2020); *Yankari Journal of English, Literature and Linguistics*, Department of English, Bauchi State University, Gadau (2017 – Date); *Al-Qalam: A Journal of Languages and Literary Studies*, Federal University Gusau (2024 – Date); etc.

Prof. Surakat was the Chairman of the A.B.U. Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU, 1999 – 2002); Head of Department, Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU, 2004 – 2006); Member of the Governing Council (Senate Rep), A.B.U (2009 – 2014); Head of Department, English and Literary Studies, A.B.U. (2016 – 2020); Vice-President of ESAN (2017 – 2021) and President of ESAN (2021 – 2026).

He is happily married with children and grand-children.