

INTERNATIONAL TRADE DYNAMISM AND NIGERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: *This study examines international trade dynamism and Nigeria economic development; Secondary data collected from Central Bank of Nigeria 2020 were analysed using Auto-regressive distributed lag (ARDL) and the unit roots test found to be stationary at levels and first difference. The results revealed long run relationship between the dependent and independent variables as inflation, bank lending rate, and foreign exchange rate and trade openness have negative co-efficient, the f-statistics of bound test, 11.9 is greater than the upper and lower bound. In the short run export, Balance of Trade (BOT) and import have negative coefficient and significance except import which is insignificant. Other variables have positive coefficient and are insignificant. Nigerians should refrain from the excessive consumption of imported goods and produce more exportable goods. The manufacturing industries should produce goods that can compete favourably in world market. These actions would improve the country's Balance of Trade position.*

KEYWORDS: international trade, economic development, exports, balance of payments

INTRODUCTION

International trade serves as catalyst through which nations of the world exchange capital, goods and services across the globe. It allows citizens to consume goods and services that would otherwise not be available domestically. Without it, nations can only consume goods and services produced in their different isolated countries. It expands national trade and aids economic development.

International trade assists African nations, including Nigeria, to be liberated out of the poverty web in the world economy (Abiodun, 2017). Foreign trade can be a vehicle for national economic growth and development. The classical and neo classical economists agreed that international trade fosters globalization for advancement through efficient resources allocation among countries that have comparative advantages in production. It is instrumental to, and a driver of,

economic growth (Frankel and Romer, 1999 cited in Elias, 2018). It boosts balance of payments and increases diffusion of technology. International trade produces a positive sum game as no country is self-sufficient due to differences in endowed resources (both natural and human), resulting in comparative advantages in term of cost, time, quantity, manpower, quality and returns. (Ojomolade & Adejuwon, 2020).

It is germane to note that the positive sum game-view remains the preeminent view among experts in international trade. (Abiodun 2017). The argument against international trade is that it brought about unfavorable economic and financial situations and that the assumed gains often accrue to the developed nations since the developing nations produced primary goods which are exported at cheaper prices to the developed countries. These are then refined and sold back to the developing countries at higher prices. It distorts the industrial setup, killing infant industries that cannot compete favourably at international market prices.

Trade theorists, Raul Prebisch, Hans Singer and Myrdal, believes that international trade offshoots economic growth of the developed countries and leads to perpetual underdevelopment in developing countries. Developed countries source primary raw materials from developing nations and refined same to be exported back at higher fixed prices. (Prebisch-Singer, 1950; cited in Sen (2010) and Obisike, (2020) asserted that imported products command higher market prices, high consumption speed without easy substitution while exports of developing countries are easily substituted, lower prices and consumption speed in international market. These factors eventually lead to negative commodity terms of trade and perpetual underdevelopment.

The Nigerian oil sector dominates international trade (Afolabi, 2017) from 1973-2017. Despite this, other sectors of the economy; agriculture inclusive are still continuing in trade. From 1970 to 1980 non-oil import stood at N 45.41 billion and non-oil export stood at N 5.02 billion. From 1981 to 1991 non-oil import stood at N 230.9 billion and non-oil export stood at N 17.9 billion. Also, from 1970 to 1980 oil import stood at N 1.12 billion and oil export stood at N 57.05 billion. From 1981 to 1991 oil import stood at N 27.9 billion and oil export stood at N 389.5 billion and in 2019 oil export stood at N 16702.02 billion and import stood at N 3534.52 billion (CBN, 2020).

Nigeria economy should have leverage on oil and non-oil endowment factors for sustainable growth, however, statistical evidence has shown that Nigerian economy has perceived negative growth rates in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1991 and 2016 recording -1.79%, -7.58% and -0.51%, -0.55% and -1.58% respectively (CBN, 2017). The negative growth rate attracted researchers' attention on Nigerian economic growth (Abiodun, 2017), Afolabi, Danladi & Azeez (2017), these studies did not consider oil and non-oil commodity terms of trade as factors that can influence Nigerian economic growth negatively and/or positively. Whereas from Prebisch-Singer point of view, developing countries including Nigeria witness negative economic growth as a result of negative commodity terms of trade.

Different reasons and theories are advanced for international trade, ranging from proximity to abundance of resources, comparative advantage and absolute advantage and protectionism, e.g., infant industry protection is fundamental to developing certain industries or sectors. Helpman and Krugman (1985 cited in Abiodun 2017) opined that trade encourages specialization and causes the general level of skills to rise in the export sector.

Open trade can allow manufacturing firms to enjoy economies of scale with significant technology transfer from abroad. This would lead to improvements in the export performance of the manufacturing sector and expand opportunity of taking advantage of the global market.

International trade has long history. Nigeria comprised kingdoms and empires that involved in trade with kingdoms and across West Africa and increased the welfare of the people with variety of items they could not produce within.

Colonization brings new era of international trade which turn the fortune of Nigeria from agricultural producer to trade in crude oil in 1956. This boosted foreign exchange earnings. It is vital to Nigeria economic growth. However, this new era weakens the economy as competition with local industries kills local and infant industries. Usman (2011 cited in Abiodun, 2017) posits that international trade did not promote Nigeria's economic growth because it leads to economic instability and turned the country into an import dependent economy. This distorts the economic growth as it is with many developing nations.

Nigeria GDP was approximately the same as that of China and other emerging Asian countries in 1970, Nigeria had a GDP per capital of US\$233.35 and China GDP per capita of US\$111.82 ranking 88th and 114th respectively in the world (Sanusi 2010). Regrettably, huge resources from exports were not efficiently directed to harness economic growth and advancement, as a result of corruption, rent seeking and a general lack of accountability by government, Arodoye and Iyoha (2014). International trade have contributed more to economic growth where exports proceeds were effectively applied, such as China. In other to know what international trade is worth, the crux of this project work discourses the essential question -Does international trade influences the economic growth of Nigeria? Is there any association between international trade and economic growth? The objective of this study therefore is to examine the influence of international trade on Nigeria economic growth and the association existing between international trade and Nigeria's economic growth.

RELATED LITERATURES AND THEORIES

Conceptual Review:

International Trade

International Trade is referred to as transactions beyond the boundaries of a sovereign political authority. The reasons behind international trade are that it promotes specialization; and specialization increases productivity (Elias and Agu, 2018). In the simplest form, international trade means exchange of goods and services across international borders. In order to have knowledge of what is happening in the course of international trade, governments keep track of the transactions among nations and such transactions are recorded in the balance of payment accounts. International trade and balance of payments are therefore two important aspects in the relationship between nations, it spurred commerce, technology, spread cultural patterns, stimulate exploration and fanned the flames of war. International trade is the basis of new world economic order and globalization which has made the whole world a single global village.

The Terms of Trade

The terms of trade refer to the rate at which the goods of one country exchange for the goods of another country (Jhingan 2012 cited in Elias and Agu, 2018). The terms of trade measures the purchasing power of exports of a country in terms of its imports, and is expressed as the relation between export prices and import prices of goods.

Exchange Rate and Control

Exchange rate is the rate at which one currency is exchanged for another currency in international market. It is the price at which domestic currency is exchanged for foreign country's currency or it is rate at unit of home currency is exchanged for unit of foreign currency in international market. (Ojomolade & Adejuwon, 2020). Exchange control is a device to control international trade and payments. It aims at balancing foreign receipts against foreign payments through direct and indirect control of foreign exchange.

Balance of Trade and Balance of Payments

The balance of payments of a country is a systematic record of her receipts and payments in international transactions in a given year. Each transaction is entered on the credit or debit of balance sheet while the balance of trade is the difference between the values of goods and services exported and imported.

Inflation

There are various schools of thought on inflation, but there is a consensus among economists that inflation is a continuous rise in the prices, simply put, inflation describes an economic situation where there is a general rise in the prices of goods and services continuously. Inflation is described

as a state where “too much money is chasing fewer goods”. Inflation makes currency to lose its purchasing power, (Chude and Chude 2015).

Import and Export:

Imported goods are those goods imported from one country to another due to comparative advantages the country has in the production of those goods while exports are goods produce in Nigeria but exported to other countries.

Trade Openness

Zahonogo (2017) posits that foreign trade produces economic stimuli that increase output by two dynamics: it reduces resource misallocation in the short run and in the long run, it aids transfer of technological growth. Mustafa, Rizov and Kernohan (2017) report that trade liberalisation leads to higher growth as well as human development. Theoretical studies state trade openness hamper growth. Lucas (1988) opines that trade openness reduces long-run growth if an economy has comparative problem in terms of possible output growth or where technological modernizations are outdated. Egbetunde and Alley (2016) find that openness has positive impact on economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

Studies identified positive association between trade openness and economic growth (Jouini, 2015), while others say it has negative association (Ulaşan, 2015).

Theoretical Review: The theories underpinning the work were discussed thus:

The Surplus Theory of Adam Smith:

The Surplus Theory of Adam Smith explained the advantages of foreign trade. Trade absorbs the output of unemployed factors. Where the excess produces of a country exceed the demand required, the surplus are sent abroad and exchanged for goods for which the home country demanded, without such exchange (exportation) part of the productive labour of the country will cease and the value of its annual products diminished. This theory was used to measure the effects of gains from international trade by developing countries. It is thus relevant and adopted for the current study.

Keynesian Theory of Income Determination in an Open Economy

The theory of income determination relaxed the assumption of open economy, it added imports and exports, government expenditures and taxation into income analysis. Government expenditures are injections while taxes are leakages, they reduce the demand for consumer goods; similarly is the impact of exports and imports.

The functional equation of an open economy theory has linear relationship thus:

$$Y=C+I+G+(X-M)$$

$$Y= C + I + G + Nd$$

Where Y =National Income, C = Consumption, I = Investment Expenditure, G = Government Expenditure, and Nd = net trade (Jhingan, 2012).

The theory has been criticized for its unrealistic assumptions, however, the theory has been instrumental in research studies on economic growth and government expenditure and net export. It is therefore relevant and adopted for the purpose of this study.

Heckscher – Ohlin Theory of Trade (2 by 2 by 2 Theory).

Richardian theory of comparative advantage says international trade is based on comparative advantage in cost of production, it does not say why nation have comparative advantage in one product and disadvantage in another or why production possibility curves of two nations differ. Heckscher theory popularly known as 2 by 2 by 2 factors endowment theory of trade model that comparative cost advantages of production are due to endowment factors differential, which is the availability of both natural and man-made resources.

The two factors are: labour and capital. These factors differential made some countries to have capital abundance and some labour abundance. Labour abundant countries produce goods that need labour- Intensive and capital abundant countries goods that used capital intensive-technology. This theory made country to specialize in her area of abundance endowment, thereby leading into international trade which contributes to each country's economic growth, hence, its relevance to the current study.

However, from the '90s onward, opinions seemed to have converged amongst economists that trade system has positive impact on economic growth in developing countries. Krueger (1997 cited Elias and Agu, 2018)

Empirical Review

Obisike and Onwuka 2020 examines the impact of international trade on Nigerian economic growth, from 2000 to 2018. The study employed Engle-Granger (E-G) two stage co-integration test technique of analysis because PP unit root test results showed that all the variables in the model specified are stationary at order 1 or $I(1)$. E-G results showed that there exists both long and short run relationship between oil commodity terms of trade (OCTOT), non-oil commodity terms of trade (NOCTOT) and Nigerian economic growth. The result analysis is based on trend and short run estimation. The trend analysis result revealed that NOCTOT benefits Nigeria more than OCTOT. The short run result revealed statistically that a unit increase in OCTOT led to 1.46 units increase in Nigerian economic growth, while a unit increase in NOCTOT led to 1.26 units increase in Nigerian economic growth within the study period. Economically the short run estimated results revealed that OCTOT and NOCTOT had positive impact on Nigerian economic growth. The pair wise granger causality test showed that there exists no causal link flowing from OCTOT to GDP or from GDP to OCTOT. In the same vein there is no causal link flowing from NOCTOT to GDP

or from GDP to NOCTOT. Generally this implies that OCTOT and NOCTOT are independent of GDP and that GDP is also independent of OCTOT and NOCTOT.

Elias, Agu and Eze (2018), evaluated the impact of international trade on the Nigeria economic growth with sole objective of ascertaining the impact of export trade on the Nigerian economy and to determine the impact of import trade on the Nigerian economy. They deployed multiple regression analysis technique of estimation. The results of the study showed that there is a significant impact of export trade on the Nigerian economic growth. The study also revealed that there is no significant impact of import trade on the Nigerian economic growth. The researchers among other things recommended that conscious efforts should be made by government to fine-tune the various macroeconomic variables in order to provide an enabling environment to stimulate foreign trade by engaging in more of export trade and in effect curtail on import trade which has a negative effect or strain the economy.

Afolabi, Danladi and Azeez (2017), examined the impact of international trade on economic growth in Nigeria, with the objective of identifying the major factors influencing economic growth through international trade. They applied Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test together with Phillip-Perron (PP) test of Unit Root Tests to ascertain the stationarity properties of the variables. The Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique was used to test for the significant relationship between the level of economic growth and international trade. Economic growth was proxy to GDP, exchange rate, government expenditure, interest rate, foreign direct investment, import and export were used as independent variables. The result revealed that government expenditures, interest rate, import and export are all positively significant while exchange rate and foreign direct investment are negatively insignificant to the growth process of the Nigerian Economy. The econometric results suggest that Nigerian government should give more emphasis to specialization on agriculture so as to diversify her production and export base in order to enable the country benefit from all the gains of trade including economic growth. The country's trade should not only be on primary and oil exports but also the promotion of non-primary exports and non-oil exports i.e. manufactured goods. Promotion of exports within the context of sub-regional and regional economic integration should be vigorously pursued to expand Nigerian international market and the importation policy of the government should be strictly adhered to in order to control dumping and to encourage the local investors.

Abiodun (2017), examined the contribution of international trade to economic growth in Nigeria, with specific interest of establishing nexus between international trade and economic growth. The variables considered are real GDP, a proxy for economic growth, export volumes, import volumes, trade openness, gross capital formation and exchange rate as independent variables. Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test was used for the unit root test and the variables were found to be stationary at levels. Granger Causality was also deployed to test the causality between the dependent and independent variables and a uni-directional relationship was established for some

of the variables. The results revealed that there is, overall, a positive relationship between economic growth and international trade.

METHODOLOGY

This study used secondary data collected from National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Nigeria bulletin, 2020. The study employed autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) descriptive statistics to estimate data.

Model Specification. The model specification adopted Abiodun,(2017) model with some modifications given as

$$Y_f(\text{IN.TRD}) \text{ ----- (3.1)}$$

The equation 3.1 was transformed into linear equation as

$$\text{GDP} = (\text{FX}, \text{BLR}, \text{TOP}, \text{BOT}, \text{INF}, \text{IMP}, \text{EXP}) \text{ -----(3.2)}$$

Where IN.TRD represent international trade, hence FX for foreign exchange rate, TOP trade openness, BLR represents Bank lending rate, Yf=GDP which is gross domestic product and INF is inflation rate. BOT for balance of trade, IMP is imports and EXP is exports.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The summary of the descriptive statistics of data used in modeling the relationship between international trade and economic growth in Nigeria between periods of 1987 to 2019 are represented in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Relationship between International Trade and Economic Growth in Nigeria (1985 – 2019)

	GDP	BLR	BOT	EXP01	FX	IMP	INF	TOP
Mean	32679.27	19.05235	1444.467	5506.040	104.6702	4061.544	20.07971	0.337765
Median	9733.195	18.29000	361.2000	1906.840	115.2551	1435.440	12.55000	0.400000
Maximum	144210.5	29.80000	5372.770	19909.75	306.9537	20448.92	72.84000	0.600000
Minimum	192.2700	13.54000	-2230.910	8.920000	0.893800	5.980000	5.380000	0.074000
Std. Dev.	42509.61	3.240106	2057.592	6144.163	94.18666	5140.522	17.75200	0.124400
Skewness	1.247594	1.427470	0.601058	0.859619	0.705770	1.359505	1.629102	-0.031334
Kurtosis	3.296679	5.336739	2.052236	2.477675	2.649269	4.203010	4.445406	2.807017
Jarque-Bera	8.944808	19.28230	3.319734	4.573855	2.996899	12.52368	17.99887	0.058324
Probability	0.011420	0.000065	0.190164	0.101578	0.223476	0.001908	0.000123	0.971259
Sum	1111095.	647.7800	49111.88	187205.4	3558.787	138092.5	682.7100	11.48400
Sum Sq. Dev.	5.96E+10	346.4434	1.40E+08	1.25E+09	292747.2	8.72E+08	10399.41	0.510686

Source: researcher's computation 2021.

The average gross domestic product value of the economy stood out at 32,679 which reveals that the Nigeria economy grows at an average level of 32,679. The average value is greater than the median value of the economy in Nigeria (9,733). In addition, the average mean of the bank lending rate, balance of trade, export, foreign exchange rate, import, inflation and trade openness stood at 19.05%, 1444.5%, 5506.0%, 104.6%, 4061.5%, 20.1% and 0.33% respectively. However, the average mean value for bank lending rate, balance of trade, export, import and inflation is greater than the median values except for foreign exchange rate and trade openness that is less than their median values. The variability in the distributions is also captured by the standard deviation in table 1. The results are as follows: bank lending rate 32.4% Trade Openness (12%), Inflation Value (177%), Exchange Rate (940%). These values are considerably dispersed around the centers and below the mean values, which indicate there are no wide variations among the data over the years in each distribution. The jarque-bera statistics indicates that none of the variables show a departure from normality, that is, the variables are considered to have a normal distribution.

Unit Roots Test (Phillips Perrons and Augmented Dickey Fuller).

A non stationarity test among the variables was carried out by Augmented Dickey Fuller and Phillips Perrons test. The variables differences are integrated at order zero and first difference, which is 1(0) and 1(1), hence least square regression was not suitable, and therefore autoregressive distributed lag was suitable.

Table 2: Autoregressive Distributed Lag

Dependent Variable: GDP				
Method: ARDL				
Dynamic regressors (1 lag, automatic): BLR BOT EXP01 FX IMP INF TOP				
Fixed regressors: C				
Number of models evaluated: 256				
Selected Model: ARDL(2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
GDP(-1)	0.370925	0.187432	1.978984	0.0633
GDP(-2)	0.668239	0.190357	3.510457	0.0025
BLR	77.79662	66.07909	1.177326	0.2544
BOT	-542.2550	976.0011	-0.555589	0.5853
BOT(-1)	0.694684	0.226076	3.072796	0.0066
EXP01	542.9459	975.9918	0.556302	0.5849
EXP01(-1)	-0.461331	0.166450	-2.771585	0.0126
FX	15.28584	4.832374	3.163216	0.0054
IMP	-541.8678	975.9995	-0.555193	0.5856
INF	7.811726	13.18914	0.592285	0.5610
INF(-1)	12.85186	11.27857	1.139494	0.2694
TOP	540.1204	1777.126	0.303929	0.7647
C	-2640.341	1944.270	-1.358011	0.1912
R-squared	0.999817	Mean dependent var		32956.67
Adjusted R-squared	0.999695	S.D. dependent var		42561.22
F-statistic	8182.071	Durbin-Watson stat		2.128419
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

*Note: p-values and any subsequent tests do not account for model selection

In table 2, the p-value for the prob (f-statistic) is 0.000000 which is less than .05 at 0.05% significance level, showing that the estimated model is statistically significant. The Adjusted R-squared is 99.9 % and R-squared 99.9 % which indicates that the independent variables are almost all considered and the remaining variation are captured by the error term. Therefore, we conclude that our estimated model has a good fit. The Durbin-Watson statistics of 2.13 evidence no serial correlation.

At short run BOT (Balance of trade), export and import have negative coefficient with GDP. BOT and export are significant while import is not significant. Other variables such as bank lending rate, inflation trade openness foreign exchange have positive coefficient and not significance except foreign exchange.

TABLE 3: ARDL Bound Tests

Test Statistic	Value	K		
F-statistic	11.09023	7		
Critical Value Bounds				
Significance	I0 Bound	I1 Bound		
10%	2.03	3.13		
5%	2.32	3.5		

From table 3 above, the results suggest that long run relationship exist among the variables as the value of the f-statistics, 11.09 of the bound test is greater than the upper and lower bound at 5% level of significance. This shows that there is co-integration among the variables.

Table 4: Long Run Co-integration and Bounds Test

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
BLR	-86.426507	1935.767201	-1.026170	0.3184
BOT	13827.9759	26762.27472	0.516697	0.6117
EXP01	-51.575435	26767.73905	-0.517473	0.6111
FX	-90.302325	341.808664	-1.141874	0.2685
IMP	13835.8275	26762.04118	0.516994	0.6115
INF	-527.61541	481.927826	-1.094802	0.2880
TOP	-91.209326	42643.28227	-0.323409	0.7501
C	67417.3703	6277.741633	1.118446	0.2781

At long run (Table 4), the variables have negative coefficient except BOT and import. This shows that inflation, bank lending rate, foreign exchange rate and trade openness have negative impact on Nigeria economic development as was found out by Egbetunde, (2018) and Abiodun (2017)

Figure 1: Tests of Normality, Serial Correlation, and Heteroskedasticity

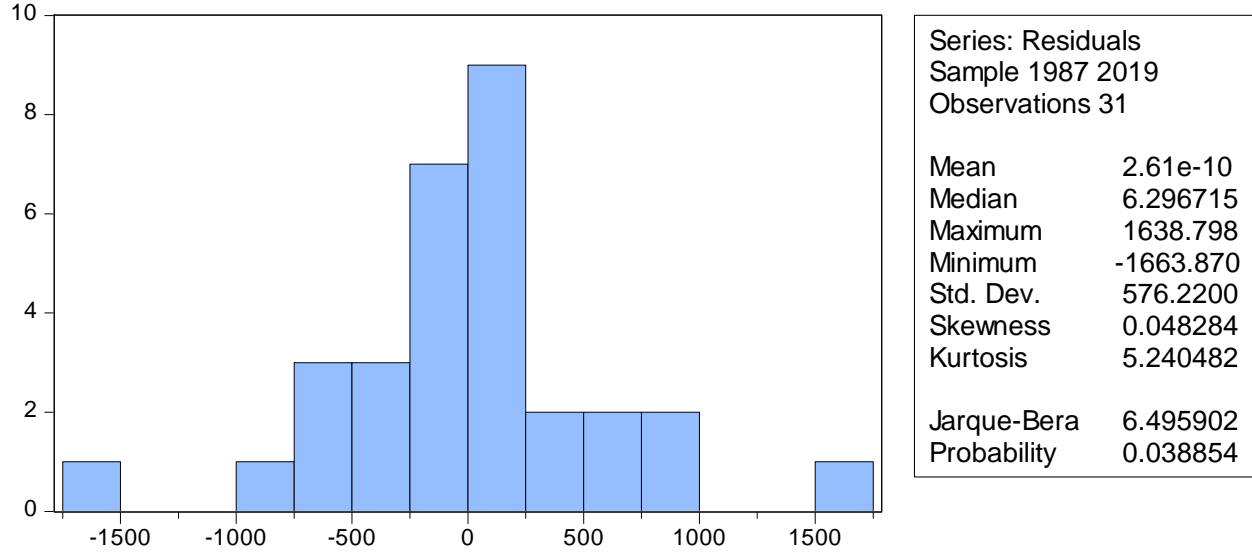


Fig 1

Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey

F-statistic	1.331724	Prob. F(11,19)	0.2811
Obs*R-squared	13.49574	Prob. Chi-Square(11)	0.2622
Scaled explained SS	9.647253	Prob. Chi-Square(11)	0.5624

Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:

F-statistic	0.915066	Prob. F(2,16)	0.4205
Obs*R-squared	3.181923	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.2037

From fig 1, tests of normality, serial correlation, and heteroskedasticity were performed on the autoregressive distributed lag model to decide whether the model was well specified. The normality test reveals that the residual is not normally distributed as the probability value of 0.0388854 of the Jarque-Bera statistics is less than the 5% level of significance. There is no serial correlation in the residual of the model since the probability value 0.4205 of the F statistics is greater than the 5% level of significance. Situations where the variance of the residuals is unequal over the range of measured values (Heteroskedasticity problem) is absent, because the probability value was 0.2811. The scatter of the residuals is not unequal and, therefore, analysis of the results is considered valid.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The bound test performed revealed a long run relationship among the variables as the f-statistic of 11.09 is greater than the upper and lower bound at 5 % significance level. The variables have

negative coefficient at long run but they were not significant at 5% significance level. At short run BOT, Export and import have negative coefficients. The normality, serial correlation and Heteroskedasticity test performed reveal that the model is considered valid.

Implications for Researchers and Practice:

Nigeria government should ensure that export proceeds are effectively and judiciously harnessed for Nigeria's economic development and discourage rent seeking and corruptive motives in the national economic management.

The monetary authority should pursue policies that will give value to Nigeria currency from sliding into worthless currency among currencies in the international market. Inflation and bank lending rate should be properly managed to enhance local production for export and foreign consumption of goods and services should be discouraged to conserve foreign exchange.

CONCLUSION

The study examined the relationship between international trade and economic growth in Nigeria between 1987 and 2019. Diverse views were examined whether international trade impact on or influence Nigeria's economic growth or not. The thought at onset is that international trade impact on economic growth of Nigeria according to Elias and Agu,(2018), and to validate this position, Autoregressive distributed lag was explored to examine the long-run relationship among the variables. Inflation, bank lending rate, foreign exchange rate and trade openness have negative impact on Nigeria economic development. This is in agreement with the findings of Egbetunde, (2018), and Abiodun (2017). Exports has negative impact with economic development, indicating export proceeds are not judiciously used to grow the economy This is in agreement with Obisike (2020). In the short-run, the coefficient of export and BOT values were significant and this implies that the variables demonstrate some sort of influence on economic growth in the short-run, but on the long run it has adverse performance as the benefits were wrongly applied.

Further Research

This research paper; international trade dynamism and Nigeria economic development should be subjected to further empirical analysis to determine its potential implications for Nigeria economic development by comparing with other developing countries using panel data.

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