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Adoption of Computerized Accounting System by SMEs: A Theoretical Approach

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ABSTRACT:

Numerous works done on the adoption of computerized accounting system were anchored on Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). This research work however looked beyond TAM to explain dynamics that determine the adoption of computerized accounting system by SMEs in an emerging economy like Nigeria. The study x-rays the shortcomings of Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), taking into cognizance the employment of the model technology-related studies across various disciplines. The TAM shortcomings, evaluations and criticism of the various theories that explain the adoption of computerized accounting were articulated grounded on extant literature review. However, this study argues that the TAM model is not adequate to explain all the factors that influence the adoption of computerized accounting system by small firms. However, based on the outcome of this study, the study that recommended a modified Technology Acceptance model can be used for explaining factors that determine the adoption of computerizes accounting system by Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

Keywords: Small and medium scale enterprises, Computerized Accounting System, Technology Alignment Model, Diffusion Theory of Innovations

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Revolution of information technology can be traced backed to 1950s when the first business computer was invented, and it is still evolving (Nash, 1989). In addition to explosion of volume of trade, the number of trade activities also increased and manual technique of book keeping and maintaining records turned out to be counterproductive hence employment of computer became imperative. Portz, and Busta (2006) reported that the prompt advancement in information technology led to rapid spread of user-friendly systems. The adoption of computerized system by businesses has made firms to perform their task a great deal quicker and with accurateness. Computerized accounting systems (CAS) are software programs that incorporate numerous accounting data connected to sales, purchases, receivables, payables, cash receipts, cash payments and payroll and, in the procedure the financial statements are produced (Islam, 2010). However it largely perceived that there is a wide-ranging lacuna between computerized accounting and its intended purpose of the fulfillment of managerial task (Ahmed & Zabri, 2012). This lacuna is broader among Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in emerging economies like Nigeria where the owners of businesses have diminutive or entirely no accounting know-how. Contemporarily, the extant literature showed that most SMEs owners in emerging economies hardly use accounting techniques for capturing daily business activities because most of them have little or no formal education

Accounting information system is a computerized fitted arrangement where financial information are worked, and such information enhances owners of business financial decisions (Nicolaou, 2000). In recent times, computerized accounting has drawn great concern among a variety of academics the world over. For instance progression in technology absolutely affected business operations of SMEs in emerging markets like Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia (Tilahun, 2018). Tilahun (2018) opines that the accounting information system is one of the major factors that stimulates economic advancement, creates jobs, engenders growth and provide social information on financial plan of the firm which can assist management to strategize and supervise their business activities (Sajady et al., 2008).

Aloa and Kuje (2012) argue that most SMEs owners have little or no education, hence the adoption of accounting techniques become nearly impracticable. A good accounting system ought to provide a precise and inclusive outcomes of business activities, that can engender speedy comparison of current and previous years information. It makes available information that is of immersed importance to stakeholders like potential creditors, financiers and management (Longenecker, et al. 2006).

The slow pace at which businesses embrace contemporary accounting methods has to great extent affected growth of SMEs in the 21st century- which is termed the fourth industrial revolution. The low rate acceptability of this new technique has affected the quality of decision made by lots of businesses in emerging economies.

Adoption of CAS has become a vital driving force that propels firms to move in right direction for to achieve their set objectives in the record time. Technology is all about speed and accuracy of business operation. Information is received and send with great speed, larger volume of data are saved

and processed seamlessly while the use of paper is drastically reduced. Embracing new technology enhances customer satisfaction (Amanamah et al., 2016). Some scholars argued that CAS is influenced by several externalities like; the nature of business, where the business is situated, the business ecosystem, business outlay and educational level of business staffs (Mohd-Sam et al., 2012). In an all evolving world, the accessibility and acceptance of CAS across the globe has transformed the usual way processing information. Porter and Millar (1985) argue that in over the decade in a competitive world, information technology had played a significant role in transforming SMEs - which forms a large bulk of businesses in emerging economies. Other scholars argue adopting CAS will not be cost effective for SMEs whose volume of businesses is usually not much. Furthermore, argument from other scholars is that it will reduce the glitches associated with record keeping. Additionally, the extant literature reveals that despise the shortcomings of new technology it is not doubtable that CAS has several advantages.

Other scholars suggest that physiognomies of the firm are other dynamics that determine the decision of adoption of CAS by SMEs. Features like as magnitude of firm, member of staff level of knowledge in CAS, industrial sector, business location, and information-intensity (Wenzler, 1996; Attewell, 1992). However, SMEs are confronted by several challenges like dearth of funds and limited schooled human capacity terms of financial capacity. Subsequently, lack adequate fund remains a major barrier to adoption of CAS by SMEs (Attewell, 1992). Extant literature on technology innovation, emphases that large firms have more resources that their disposal hence are more willingly and more open to embraced innovation (Dewar & Dutton, 1983; Moch & Morse, 1977). King and He (2006) asserted micro businesses are confronted by many glitches such as such as inadequate fund, deficient in-house technical know-how which have affected the adoption of CAS in most emerging markets.

Environmental features with respect to firm's operating system like external agent and competition also pose great hindrance on the acceptance of CAS by SMEs in emerging economies. Wenzler (1996) identifies some factors that influence the adoption CAS as customers related factors other than the competitors related factors. Competition is by and large assumed to boost the likelihood of acceptance an innovative system of operation (Thong, 1999). Competition lead to the implausibility in the business ecosystem and by extension engenders the need to employed faster and better way of carrying business activities.

This work attempts to resolve some of the conflicting result gotten in prior studies on dynamics that determine the adoption of CAS by SMEs. Some prior studies were anchored on Technology Alignment Model (TAM) due to the lucid nature of the model (King & He, 2006). Nevertheless, this work contends that TAM is unsuitable for explaining why SMEs adopt CAS. The research criticized TAM based on the literature reviewed. However, the embellished version of the Technology Acceptance and Use Model was suggested by some authors (like, Jesmin, 2016). Numerous works have stated the inadequacies of TAM to address the nexus between technology and the adoption of CAS. Some scholars argued that TAM fails to elucidate in clear terms users' mannerism (Hai & Alam Kazmi, 2015; Lim, Osman, Salahuddin, Romle, & Abdullah, 2016).

Some other schools of thought contended that the TAM model fails to adequately forecast the reception of CAS because of its short sightedness (Hojjati & Khodakarami, 2016). Chandio et al (2018) additionally, contend that TAM is inadequate to elucidate users' acceptance and use of new technology particularly in an e-government sphere (Chandio, Burfat, Abro, & Naqvi, 2017). Some authors argued that lack of technical know-how is a major impediment the hinders the adoption of CAS by SMEs (Mbogo, 2011)

Business establishment particularly small and medium size enterprises in 21st century function in multifaceted and competitive environment categorized by fluctuating circumstances coupled with economic sphere that make the acceptance of accounting techniques for trading and other financial activities almost impossible. The conventional perception of small and medium businesses is that rudimentary technique of record keeping is cheaper. The major challenges facing the adoption CAS by SMEs are copious.

The major controversial issues surrounding the study of SMEs and adoption of CAS can be summarized into three. One is the lack of consensus definition for SMEs by extent literatures. Second, there are divergent opinions by several researchers on the factors that influence the adoption of CAS by SMEs in developing nations. Finally, the precise theory that explains the factors that determine the adoption of CAS is not clear. Addressing this issues create the gap that this research intend to fill.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Review

Earlier works emphasized that CAS enhances speed of companying accounting activities, reduce throughout put time and reduces operational mistakes. Some previous works on the subject matter investigated the issues connected to adoption of CAS in specialized market. Some extant literatures revealed that cultural, political and economic conditions influence the adoption of of CAS by SMEs. These conservational dynamics differ in specialized and emerging markets.

Lal, (2006) discovered that educational accomplishments of CEO are connected to the accept of CAS. Their findings additionally revealed that the likely explanation for the small degree of acceptance of CAS by SMEs in Malaysia is that most proprietors of micro-businesses are uneasy with CAS and also due to their exoticism for this innovative process. This technology is accepted by small businesses whose owners are acquainted with this technology and can operate computer and laptop sets.

Chatzoqlou et al. (2010) did a study to ascertain the dynamics that determine the adoption CAS by SMEs in emerging economies using a parametric statistical technique to analyzed data extracted from the field. The outcome of the work divulged that inadequate support from owner of SMEs is one of the foremost factors that influences acceptance of CAS by SMEs.

Sam at el (2012) carried a study to ascertain the factors that influence adoption CAS by SMEs in Melaka. An assessment was performed via a set of feedback form to investigate dynamics that influence acceptance CAS by SMEs, factors like CEO innovativeness technology, perceive effectiveness of the technology, perceived easiness of use the technology and business competitiveness. The outcomes of the study revealed that CEO perceived

innovative capacity of technology, perceived seamless application of the technology and business competitiveness influence the acceptance of CAS by SMEs. The outcomes of study showed that only perceived effectiveness of the technology influence the adoption of CAS.
Munasinghe (2015) performed a work to ascertain the determining dynamics of acceptance of CAS. The result revealed that magnitude of SMEs and external environ of SMEs are the dynamic that affect the adoption of CAS by SMEs. Munasinghe (2015) further found out that management support influence the adoption of CASs by SMEs.

Tijani and. Nyang' (2015) carried out a study to ascertain the factors that affect the adoption of CAS by SMEs. The author reported that the presence infrastructure, cost, presence of ICT resources and human resources are the dynamics that influence the adoption of CAS. The findings revealed that users' perception has no emblematic influence on the acceptance of CAS by SMEs.

Haleem (2016) investigates the factors that determine the adaption of CAS by government department in District in Sri Lanka. The outcomes of the study revealed that social amenities, worker's knowledge in computer and government support are vital dynamics in influence the adoption of CAS.

Roger (2016) using Davis's technology acceptance model investigated the dynamics that determine the acceptance of CAS by SMEs in Central Ohio. The study used correlation analysis to establish the correlation between dependent and independent variables. The study was aimed at ascertaining the association between presumed ease to use, presumed expediency, and the intention for accepting CAS. The outcome of the study revealed that perceived ease to use, perceived usefulness, and the intent to adopt CAS significantly influence the adoption of CAS by SMEs in Ohio

Tilahun (2018) investigated the factors that influence adoption of CAS by hospitals in Addis Ababa. The work investigated the influence of cost-benefit presumption, presumed seamlessness in using the technology, training received workers, SMEs magnitude and management dedication to acceptance of this technology. The study used parametric statistical technique to analyze data extracted from the field. The outcome of the study revealed that presumed seamlessness in using this technology, workers training and management dedication influenced the acceptance of CAS by selected hospital. Furthermore, the result showed cost-benefit perception and firm size are not significantly related to adoption of computerized accounting system.

Darshi et al (2019) investigate the dynamics that influence the acceptance of CAS in SMEs in Sri Lanka. The study used four dynamics namely owners' commitment, presumed importance, availability of funds and worker's training in computer. The research used Partial Least Squares (PLS) path modeling to analyze the data gathered from the field. The outcomes study revealed that owners' commitment and firm's capacity to bear the cost significantly influence the adoption of CAS by SMEs.

Jagadeesan (2019) carried out a study to ascertain factors that determine the acceptance of CAS by SMEs in Salem District using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics for analyzing data gathered from the field. The outcome the study showed cost and lack of education significantly influence the adoption of CAS by SMEs in Salem.

Rahmi et al (2019) carried out a study to ascertain the determinants of adoption of CAS in selected firms in emerging nations. The study employed non-parametric statistical technique to analyzing data gathered from the field. The outcome of the study revealed that the quality of human resource, perceived usefulness, and perceived convenience significantly influence the acceptance this technology..

Habiba (2019) carried out a study to ascertain the factors that influence the adoption CAS by SMEs in Ethiopia. The used a nonparametric statistical to analyze data gathered from the field. The outcome of the study revealed that firm size and financial readiness of firm significantly influence the adoption of SMEs. The results further revealed perceived-benefit and firm size have no significant influence on adoption CAS by SMEs.

Ibrahim et al (2021) carried out a study to decipher the acuity of schools' management towards the intent of adoption of CAS in public secondary schools. The research work investigates the influence of presumed effectiveness, presumed seamlessness of using, CEO dedication and social influence on acceptance of CAS by public secondary school. The work recommended a conceptual configuration based on four variables (perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, management commitment and social influence) in scrutinizing the determining dynamics that influence the acceptance of CAS by secondary school tutors

Dirie and Ramli (2022) examined dynamics that affect the accept of CAS by SMEs in
Mogadishu, Somalia employing non parametric statistical technique to analyze data collected from field. The outcome the study revealed management commitment is a foremost dynamic that determines theacceptance of CAS by SMEs in Somalia.

Oduro et al. (2022) examines the determinants of adoption of CAS by the public sector in Ghana data was gathered from the operators and controllers of CAS of 227 local governments across the sixteen regions of Ghana. Structural estimation model was used to analyse data gathered from field. The outcomes of the work revealed fund of instillation of CAS and willingness to accept CAS are the major factors that influence the adoption of CAS by public sector in Ghana.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The prior works on the factor propel SMEs' acceptance of computer based accounting are approached from diverse standpoints. Each of these approaches is explained by different theories and models. These models can be explained by the following theories.

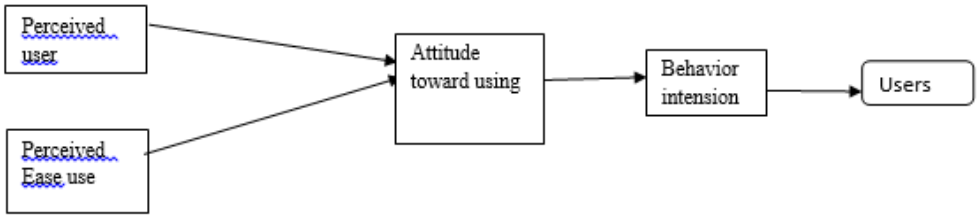
1. **Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)**

The TA theory explicates that modification of hi-tech has capability of influencing acceptance of a new technology with the hope that its adoption will enhance performance (Molinillo & Japutra, 2017). The theory postulates that ordinarily man has the propensity to resist change hence there is a need to educate adopters on the perceived benefits that will be derived from acceptance of this technology.

TAM is one of the foremost extensions of Ajzen and Fishbein's theory of reasoned action (TRA). Technology acceptance model is the one of the most extensively functional model that explain the factors that affect the acceptance and usage of new technologies by users (Venkatesh, 2000). This theory was propounded by Fred Davis and Richard Bagozzi. . TAM has strong behavioural components. It proposes that when a person takes purposeful action, that they will be free to action without restriction (Bagozzi, Davis & Warshaw 1992). Several scholars have reproduced Davis's original study to deliver pragmatic substantiation on the associations that occur among efficacy, easiness of importance and adoption of computerized configuration (Adams, Nelson & Todd 1992; Davis 1989; Hendrickson, Massey & Cronan 1993; Segars & Grover 1993; Subramanian 1994; Szajna 1994).

The TAM model has been used in most technical and geographic framework. One of these contexts is health care and organizational management. TAM is a model that recognizes motivation for embracing or rebuffing new technology (Atiquil &Islam, 2010).The proponents of TAM argued that acceptance of new technology is based two immutable factors namely perceived usefulness and perceived ease of using the technology. For example, Perceived usefulness (PU) is seen as the potential adopters' idiosyncratic likelihood that acceptance of a new technology will lead upsurge of output of the adopting firm.

Perceived ease of use (PEOU) is perceived seamlessness of using a new technology (Davis, 1989). Some previous works (Suki & Suki 2011; Kigongo 2011; Kabir, et al 2017;Kashada & Koshadah 2018; Pratomo & Fika 2019; Jun & Chin 2020) confirmed that the TAM explains the adoption of new technology. Some scholars argued that TAM model is basic and hypothetical for acceptance of new technology.



TAM has been extensively used by numerous scholars in diverse field of research around the globe. Abbasi, Shah, Doudpota, Channa, and Kandhro, (2013) opined that TAM can be embellished by the existing model adding or removing some variables into existing model to make it meet the need the real world circumstances (Venkatesh, 2000; Kabir et al 2017; Vincent, Veera & Nadim2019; Oladejo, Yinus& Aina 2020; Grandon, Diaz-Pinzon, Magal & Rojas-Contreras 2021). This study argued that the ideas model that should be adopted to explain employment of computerized accounting by small firms should go beyond "perceived usefulness" and "perceived ease of use." It is argued that scholars should incorporate other factors like "management commitment," and "social influence" "behavioral intention" and availability of fund to adopt computerized accounting.

2. Criticisms of TAM

TAM has been extensively condemned by several authors despite its regular usage, leading the original proposers to attempt to redefine it numerous times over. Critics of TA "theory" criticized the theory on the ground has an uncertain heuristic value, it has inadequate clarifying and extrapolative power, its inconsequentiality and devoid of everyday worth (Chuttur, 2009). Benbasat and Barki (2011) argue that TAM "has drifted academics' focus away from other significant concerns and has generated delusion evolvement in accumulation of knowledge. Additionally, the autonomous efforts exerted by numerous researchers to magnify TAM for it to acclimatize with the continuous altering InfoTech environments have resulted to hypothetical disorder and pandemonium TAM disregard the fundamental social procedures of IS development and employment.

Lunceford (2017) contended that the structure of TA only focuses on presumed importance and seamlessness while overlooking other important factors, such as cost and important essentiality that compel users to adopt the technology. Bagozzi (2007) opines that, TAM can be used to explain forty per cent of factors that determine the adoption computer system while sixty per cent remained unexplained. Lunceford (2017) asserted that researchers need to be intensely cognizant of the manifold restrictions that are intrinsic in attempting to switch from manual system to a computerized system.

Maruping, et al., (2016) argued that to get hold of apposite understanding of the dynamics that stimulate the upsurge in the adoption of computerized system. It is essential to have an all-inclusive theoretical and hands-on understanding of the frameworks a models explain the adoption of CAS . The foremost precinct of the TAM which links adoption of new technology to the conduct of users can be inevitably elucidated by idiosyncratic means such as behavioral intention (BI). Nonetheless, personal influence as the idiosyncratic norm is elucidated to imply that an individual can be influenced by words of the mouth from a coworker, or an acquaintance while a superior can compel a subordinate to use computer to carry out a precise job based IT policy of the firm, but an acquaintance has no directive power over worker who works under the directive of the line manager.

One other constrict of TAM is that, underscores of behavior cannot be consistently quantified in an experimental inquiry. It cannot be measured based on series of idiosyncratic dynamics like as the rules and ethics of the general public and individual characteristics and individualistic personality. Therefore, the contention that a family member or acquaintance could sway a person to use computerized system through exacting social pressure is basically false (Ang, Ramayah & Amin, 2015; Shan & King, 2015). Although it may be true in theory for personal use of computerized system, the conceptualization may not be plausible or accurate in a work environment. Maruping et al., (2006) argue that the behavioral expectations ought to be employed to elucidate the factors that compel small firms to adopt computerized system other than explaining the behavioral intendancies of adopters. Ajibade (2017) furthermore contended that when information of an establishment gets to maturity, information conventionalism is inevitable. Consequently, there will be a well-establish procedures inside the establishment that will guide users on how use to an Information Systems (IS). Subsequently, behavioral expectancies can be quantified in association to the degree of alignment and not exclusively on the basis of the perspicacity of workers. Armenteros et al., (2013) advocated that attitude of workers toward the use of technology at work is based on the perceived usefulness and ease to use. .

This research work contends that perceive usefulness and ease of use might not be the only factors that determine the adoption of CAS. Zahid et al. (2013) opine that the TAM does not put into cognizance that external dynamics such as age and education will influence the adoption CAS.

3 The diffusion of innovations theory

The diffusion of innovation was propounded by the French sociologist Gabriel Tarde and was modified by anthropologists and geographers from Germany and Austria respectively- Friedrich Ratzel and Leo Frobenius. The inquiry into this grey area -diffusion innovations led to creation of a sub-discipline in sociology in Mid-western United States in the 1920s and 1930s. Agriculture know-how was evolving swiftly, and scholars started to investigate ways and manner autonomous farmers adopted hybrid seeds, equipment, and methods. Ryan and Gross (1943) carried out research in Iowa to establish the implementation of crossbreed corn seed by gelatinous. Prior works on diffusion into a distinct prototype that is alluded to be stanchly in the future. Since it started in bucolic sociology, Diffusion of Innovations has been useful in numerous setting like sociology medicine, communications, marketing, development studies, enhancement of health, corporate studies, understanding of management, preservation biology and complexity studies, with chiefly mammoth influence on the field of medicines.

Diffusion of innovations is a theory that tries to elucidate the manner, the reason, and at what tempo an innovative ideas and technical know-how spread. Rogers, a professor of communication was one of foremost proponents of Diffusion Innovations. Rogers (2007) contends that diffusion is the procedure by which a new technology is transmitted over time amongst the members in a social structure. The diffusion of innovations theory originated from diverse and span of various professions. Rogers (2007) reported that there five main fundamentals that determine the spread of a revolving idea and they are: first; new ideas, second; adopters level of training, third; communication outlets; forth, time; and fifth a social structure. This process is contingent upon on social capital. The new technology ought to be comprehensively embraced by adopters in order to be self-sustain. Contained by the degree of acceptance is embedded a degree at which a new technology gets to its crucial point. Mckenna (1989) asserted that the crucial point lies at the border line between the first time adopters and the early majority. The tipping spot between niche appeal and mass (self-sustained) acceptance was initially called "the marketing chasm.

The diffusion of innovation (DoI) theory is essentially a social procedure in which individualistic apparent information about a new technology is interconnected and it is on the assertion that a technology, practice or object has identifiable channel, time and method of being accepted by an organisations (Rogers, 1983). Rogers and Scott (1997) asserted that the paradigm shift in diffusion research can be traced back to rural sociology work of the 1940s. Rogers and Scott (1997) asserted that the introduction of technology far reaching application outside agriculture. In the 1997s, elucidate that diffusion model was basically an all-embracing diversity of disciplines such as education, health, communication, business, general sociology and economics. At the moment, the diffusion of innovation theory is comprehensively employed to explain the adoption computerized accounting system (Rogers & Scott, 1997). To appreciate the theory, it is imperative for us to explore the foundational concepts on which this theory is thrives. Diffusion is a special type of channel of 'communication by which an invention in the form of novel approach to operations or production is broadening, via given channels, over time, amongst the members of a social system' (Rogers & Scott, 1997). From this explanation, there are four main dynamics that determine diffusion and they include innovation, communication channel, time and social system A new technology is a device that is apparently new to members of a social system and expected to enhance task performance (Rogers & Scott, 1997).

Innovation theorists claim that given physiognomies affect the rate at which a new technology is accepted by a society, and these physiognomies include comparative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trial-ability and observe-ability of the new technology (Rogers & Scott, 1997). Proportional advantage derived from a technology can be measured by the degree at which an innovate idea is perceptibly chosen over a traditional method. The echelon of relative benefit may be quantified from different standpoint namely economic measures, reputation, handiness or contentment. This theory explains that the greater the supposed benefit from new technology the faster its acceptability (Rogers & Scott, 1997). Compatibility is the rate at which a newly introduced technology is perceived to be reliable considering traditional values, past involvements and the needs of intending adopters. Thus, intended adopters will accept a new technology that is more compatible with their customary social system much more quickly than that technology that is less compactable with traditional system- it is commonly said the only thing that is constant is change (Rogers & Scott, 1997).

Trial-ability is the degree to which the workability of new technology can be verified. A technology whose workability that can be verified more acceptable than one which cannot be verified. Trial-ability with regards to installation of a technology reduces apprehension that is meant to arise from quarters of the perceived adopter. Adopter terms to accept new technology with higher trial-ability very fast (Rogers & Scott, 1997).

Observe- ability explains the degree at which the outcomes of a new technology are discernible. Conspicuousness of the outcomes provokes peer conversation and authenticates the significance of the innovation (Rogers & Scott, 1997). Thus the comparative advantage, compatibility, complexity,

trial-ability and observes-ability of an innovation, may individually or combined influence the adoption/non-adoption of computerized accounting system.

The second element of the DoI theory is communication channels. This is known to the conduit via which messages about a technology is conveyed to individuals in a social system (Rogers 1995). Amusingly, the foremost conduit of communication about ICTs has been the technologies themselves. The third dynamic is time of diffusion, which is centered on three dimensions namely, the decision-making processes, an individual's innovativeness and the rate of acceptance when the new technology is introduced and time a decision taken to accept/reject the technology. The personality innovative dimension is seen as the degree to, and rate at which persons in a social system get use to the new technology. Rogers and Scott (1997) documented that there are five categories of adopter innovativeness, namely, innovators, early adopters, early majority, late majority and laggards.

The fourth and last element of diffusion is the social system. This is known as 'a set of interconnected sub-units such as individuals, groups, organizations, subsystems, that are jointly involved in solving pending problems in order achieve a common objective (Rogers & Scott, 1997). In every social system there are organizational values, opinion leaders and change agents who variously influence the diffusion process. For example, innovation decisions can be discretionary, communal or authority-based. The Innovation Decision Procedure subscribes that diffusion occurs over a period and can be seen to have five distinct stages, namely, knowledge, persuasion, decision, implementation, and confirmation. In other words, probable adopters of a new technology must schooled in it and be convinced on the benefits will they derived from accepting the technology

Surry (1997) contended that this theory has been extensively employed to instructional technology. He also asserted that, this theory is often condemned as been change-agent centered because it focuses more on the change agent's responsibility. Rogers' Individual Innovativeness theory asserted that there are individuals who are predisposed to being innovative, and these individuals will accept new technology faster than those who are less predisposed (Rogers, 1995). The individual innovativeness theory can be seen as a gamut on which at one extreme, there are the "innovators", who are the risk takers and pioneers in accepting a technology very quickly in the diffusion process, whereas at the other extreme are the "laggards" who vehemently resist the acceptance of a new technology (Surry, 1997).

The Rate of Adoption theory states that acceptance of a technology will diffused over time in a form that looks like an s-shaped curve. New technology first goes through diverse phases before it is being accepted. The acceptance of a new technology is gradual. The acceptance of a new technology starts gradually experience a period of comparatively extreme trend and swift growth, then stabilizes and finally nose dive (Surry, 1997).
Clarke (1999) opines that the diffusion theory has potential application to information technology ideas, artifacts and techniques, have been used as the theoretical bases for a number of studies on information systems. Likewise, the theory of innovation diffusion has been integrated into the field of operation of SMEs in an effort to increase the effectiveness small businesses in the informal sector (Surry, 1997).

Larsen (2001) explained that the applicability of DoI theory from the standpoint of mechanic and organic organizational settings. Larsen reached the conclusion that the diffusion theory has only restricted cogency. Larsen (2001) contended that there is no suitable theory of diffusion that explains the acceptance Information Technology. Larsen (2001) explains that DoI theory, at best, is just an umbrella for stratagem, innovation, network theory, social structural theory, and a host of other approaches for understanding computerization connected with alteration in organisational settings. Surry (1997) agrees that the DoI theory is not precise, not well incorporated, and it not an all-inclusive theory, but conglomerate multidimensional theories that emanate from an inclusive diversity of disciplines. Lyytinen and Damsgaard (2001) report that the diffusion of innovations theory draws upon other theories of organizational behaviour adopted from microeconomics, sociology and communication theory.

The key elements in diffusion research are

Element	Definition
Innovation	**Innovation is a broad group, relative to the present understanding of the analyzed unit. Any thought, practice, or object that is seeming as new by an person or other unit of social**
Adopters	**Adopters are the negligible unit of analysis. In diverse research, adopters are folks, but can also be firms (businesses, schools, hospitals, etc.), group within social system, or nations.**
Communication channels	**Diffusion, by occurs among individuals or firms. Communication channels permit the conveyance of information from one unit to the other. Communication structure or capabilities must be ascertained between actors within the social system for diffusion to take place**
Time	**The passage of time is essential acceptance of a new technology; they are hardly accepted instantly.**
Social system	**The social system is the amalgamation of exterior influences (mass media, surfactants, firm or governmental mandates) and interior influences (strong and weak), distance from opinion leaders There are many roles in a social system, and their combination represents the total influences on a potential adopter**

Source: Researchers computation

Diffusion occurs through a five–step decision-making procedure. It occurs via a succession of communication channels over a period of time amongst the members of an analogous social system. Rogers' five stages (steps): include awareness, interest, evaluation, trial, and adoption are inculcated into this theory. Abrahamson (2003) examine this procedure critically by ask questions such as: How do technically ineffectual do to the acceptance of new technology ?

Criticism of DoI

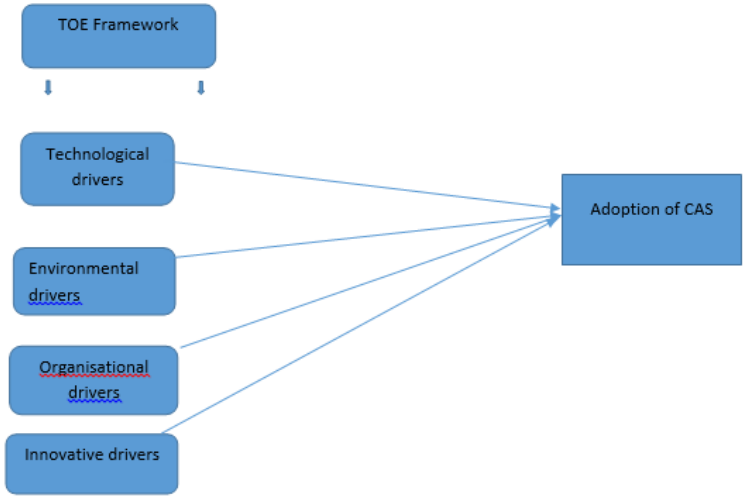
Even though there have been more than four thousand articles across many disciplines published on Diffusion of Innovations, with a vast bulk of them documented after Rogers created the systematic theory, there have been however few extensively accepted alterations in the theory. Although different studies apply the theory in somewhat different ways, this lack of consensus has left the theory torpid and difficult to apply with consistency to new challenges

Scholars condemned this theory on the ground that it is difficult to quantified diffusion because man and man's networks are multifaceted. It is tremendously hard, if not impracticable; to ascertain what precisely determine acceptance of a new technology. .Diffusion theories can explain all variables, and consequently might miss vital predictors responsible for acceptance of new technology. This variety of variables has also led to conflicting outcomes gotten by prior studies hence plummeting heuristic value of these studies.

Rogers classify the criticism of diffusion research into four categories: pro-innovation bias, individual-blame bias, recall problem, and issues of equality. The pro-innovation bias particularly suggests that all innovations are in the affirmative and that all new technology should be accepted. Cultural traditions and beliefs can be consumed by another culture's through diffusion, which can posed noteworthy costs on a cluster of individuals. The one-way information flow, from sender to receiver, is another weakness of this theory. The message sender has a goal to persuade the receiver, and there is little to no reverse flow. The person enforcing the alteration guides the direction and result of the innovation. In some situations this is the best approach, but other cases require a more participatory approach. In multifaceted setting where the adopting firm is getting information from diverse channels and is sending feedback to the sender, a one-way model will be insufficient and multiple communication flows we be needed.

3. CONCEPUAL PROPOSITION OF MODELS

The Toeh postulated that the adoption CAS is determined by three foremost factors dynamics namely; technological, organizational and environmental factors. Technological context encompasses all technologies that are associated to a firm's operations that currently in existence and those that exist in the marketplace but not presently in use. Dincer and Dincer (2016) opined that anecdotal trend in technology, data security cost, set-up cost, data security threat, training cost and maintenance cost are pointers adapted for this construct.
The organizational context of the TOE hypothesis captures firm's feature such as formal and informal structures, communication processes, size, and slack resources as the determinants of adoption of a new technology. From environmental context the framework posits that, the configuration of the industry, the existence of technology service providers, and the regulatory environment can exert pressure on a firm to adopt a certain technology. Rahayu and Day (2015) document that ecological pressures that can determine the acceptance of a new technology emanate from direct competition, government guideline, and government support. The TOE framework, following the recommendation of Wang et al. (2010) introduce innovative drivers which are centered on the extent to which the entity seeks to be innovative drive the desire to adopt CAIS. The indicators of innovative driver



Source: Researchers computation (2025)

This study contended that firms and institutional policy rather than attitude compels SMEs to adopt CAS . This research argued that TAM is not visualized to be capable of addressing the factors that influence the acceptance a new of technology by corporate entities but, mainly conceptualized for personal perception and purpose. The connotation of employing TAM is grounded on the simplicity of the model. The implication of (TAUM) model for evolving researcher is the capability to theoretically connect the model to the practical establishment and real-life circumstances as a model should offer a bridge between practicality and theoretical debate rather than modeling a concept as theoretical artifacts.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

To determine the association among the variables that were reviewed, conceptual configuration was also developed. In the conceptual configuration perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, management commitment and social influence are the independent variables while computerised accounting system is the dependent variable. The variables have determined the individual intent to use new technology. Consequently, this study employ these dynamics to postulate model to be used by future researchers to examine whether these variables could affect the acceptances behavior of SMEs in Nigeria.

Perceived usefulness is the extent to which a user of technology or information system consider that it will improve his or her performance on the job (Davis, 1989).

Contingent upon this contentions and precincts of TAM, this research work recommends the use of the modified TAM as it links the guidelines and firm rules as regard to the kind of tasks to be performance to support the intent to use technology. Consequently, emerging researching in the field of LIS, management, and social sciences may decipher and be able to apply the model as hypothetical underpinning. The conceptual model introduced by this study is recommended to offer clarity because it is a simple model that is easy to understand for studies on technology-related subjects especially on the use and acceptance of the technology. This study suggests that the prior models employed should be further probed for its suitability and enhanced argument as a conceptual model suitable to technology-related study.

This research recommended modified version of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), by integrating management commitment and social influence into existing model. This study recommend the model written below for future researchers

CAS= f (manager commitment, ability to bear cost, perceived ease to use, Human proficiency……..……..(1)

CAS= βo+β1MC+ β2AOC+β3PCU+ β4HMP+ β5PBF+£…….(2)

Where

MC= manager commitment

AOC= ability to bear cost

PCU= perceived ease to use

HMP= Human proficiency

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