



Language Revitalization and Cultural Identity in Sierra Leonean Communities: A Mixed Methods Inquiry into East African Perspectives

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Abstract

Language revitalization efforts in Sierra Leonean communities have gained attention due to their potential impact on cultural identity and social cohesion. The research employs mixed methods including qualitative interviews with community leaders and quantitative surveys to assess the impact of language programmes on linguistic diversity and cultural identity. A notable trend observed was an increase in youth enrollment in local languages classes, indicating a growing interest in revitalizing their ancestral tongues among younger generations (30%). The findings suggest that comprehensive language revival programmes can play a crucial role in strengthening cultural identities and promoting social integration within Sierra Leonean communities. Policy makers should prioritise funding for culturally sensitive language education initiatives to support the preservation of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. Language Revitalization, Cultural Identity, Community Engagement, East African Perspectives

Keywords: *African Studies, Ethnography, Heritage Language Preservation, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Oral History, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis*

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