



Language Revitalization and Cultural Identity in East African Societies: A Theoretical Framework

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Abstract

Language revitalization efforts are crucial for preserving cultural identity in East African societies, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo where linguistic diversity is rich but endangered. No empirical data collection was performed in this study; instead, it employs a comprehensive literature review to analyse existing research on language revitalization projects across East Africa. This theoretical framework provides a conceptual foundation for understanding how linguistic diversity can be preserved in East African societies, emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts between governments and indigenous populations. Policy makers should prioritise language revitalization programmes that incorporate community participation and funding mechanisms. Educational institutions could also play a pivotal role by integrating multilingual curricula to safeguard cultural heritage.

Keywords: Congo, Bantu, Pan-Africanism, Multilingualism, Ethnography, Dialectalization, Linguistic Nationalism

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