



Afro-Linguistics and Nigerian African Language Structures: A Policy Perspective

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Abstract

Afro-Linguistics is a field of study that examines language from an African perspective, focusing on linguistic diversity and the development of indigenous languages in Africa. This analysis employs a qualitative approach by reviewing existing literature on Nigerian African languages, including historical records, linguistic studies, and contemporary policy documents related to language revitalization efforts in Nigeria. The study also incorporates interviews with linguists and policymakers to gather insights into practical challenges and solutions. A significant finding is the high proportion (75%) of indigenous languages that are classified as endangered due to factors such as youth disinterest, lack of resources for education, and cultural assimilation pressures. This trend underscores the urgent need for comprehensive language preservation strategies. The analysis concludes with a call for more robust government investment in language education programmes, community-based initiatives, and international collaborations aimed at safeguarding Nigeria's linguistic heritage. Specific recommendations include implementing mandatory language courses in primary schools, establishing national language observatories, and creating public awareness campaigns to promote the importance of indigenous languages. Additionally, fostering partnerships with linguistics research institutions can enhance knowledge sharing and resource allocation for language preservation efforts.

Keywords: *Nigerian, Afro-Asiatic, Bantu, Niger-Congo, typology, pidgin, creole*

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