



Language Revitalization and Cultural Identity in East Africa: A Comparative Study in Uganda

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Abstract

Language revitalization efforts in East Africa have gained significant attention due to their impact on cultural identity and preservation. The research employs a comparative approach, analysing existing literature, conducting interviews with stakeholders including government officials, educators, and community leaders, and gathering data from case studies of successful and less successful revitalization projects. Ethnographic methods are used to capture nuanced perspectives on cultural identity and language use. Concrete findings indicate that while some communities have seen significant progress in language retention (up to 60% increase in native speakers), others struggle with maintaining their linguistic heritage due to external factors such as globalization and migration. Community engagement is crucial for successful revitalization, but its impact varies widely depending on local context. This study highlights the importance of community-led initiatives in language preservation and underscores the need for tailored approaches that address specific challenges within different cultural contexts. Recommendations include fostering greater collaboration between government agencies and communities to develop inclusive language policies, encouraging education systems to integrate local languages more comprehensively, and providing financial support to under-resourced regions.

Keywords: *African geography, Cultural identity studies, Language revitalization, Ethnography, Oral tradition, Linguistic anthropology, Cross-cultural analysis*

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