



Language Revitalization and Cultural Identity in East African Uganda: A Survey Study

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Abstract

Language revitalization efforts in East Africa have gained attention due to their potential impact on cultural identity. In Uganda, where multiple indigenous languages coexist with English and Swahili as official languages, language revitalization programmes aim to preserve linguistic diversity while fostering national unity. A survey was conducted with a sample population from diverse linguistic backgrounds across Uganda's East Region, employing questionnaires designed to gather data on language use frequency, attitudes towards language revitalization, and perceptions of cultural identity. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. The findings indicate that while there is significant support for language revitalization among respondents, the level of engagement varies across different linguistic groups and socio-economic contexts. Specifically, communities where indigenous languages are more prevalent show higher levels of active participation in revitalization activities compared to those with less indigenous language use. Language revitalization efforts have a positive correlation with cultural identity maintenance; however, this relationship is influenced by contextual factors such as community engagement and socio-economic status. These insights can inform policy decisions aimed at enhancing language preservation initiatives in Uganda. Policies should prioritise inclusive participation of all linguistic communities to ensure broad-based support for language revitalization programmes. Additionally, targeted interventions are needed to address the challenges faced by less prominent indigenous languages.

Keywords: *African Geography, Ethnography, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Oral History, Sociolinguistics, Heritage Language Education*

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