

## Linguicide In Nigeria: Consequences of Marginalized Indigenous Languages

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### Abstract:

This study x-rays language death in Nigeria as a result of unjust marginalization against the this country's indigenous languages. It goes on to point out those responsible for marginalization and suggests some possible remedial strategies to curb the already existing anomaly. The paper goes further to lament the extinction route most of our indigenous languages are already towing and proposes proper promotion of our indigenous languages both in the homes, in the schools, and in the society at large.

Keywords: Linguicide, marginalization, indigenous languages.

### Introduction

Every language is the pride of its speakers. It also reflects the culture, beliefs and ideologies of such people. One of the unfortunate things that could happen to a people is for them to lose their language or for their language to vanish into the thin air right under their watch. Linguicide is a term used to define language death. Crystal (p. 1) says that a language dies when nobody speaks it anymore. According to him, to say that a language is dead is like saying that a person is dead. He went further to opine that there could be no way a language could exist without people.

Linguicide in Nigeria has to do with death of languages in the country. Nigeria as a multilingual nation is bedeviled with lots of linguistic challenges consequent upon the careless, carefree and nonchalant attitudes of the speakers of these languages. A challenge

which has led to several abridged forms of our different indigenous languages.

The presence of a lingua franca which is a foreign language is another bane of our linguistic stability in the country. A lingua franca, which has been given more value by all and sundry, to the detriment of our various indigenous languages has caused more harm than good to the standard and quality of our indigenous languages.

This study will look into the problem of linguicide in Nigeria, outline some already dead languages in the country, investigate into the impending endangerment of the Igbo language, x-ray the consequences of marginalized indigenous languages and