

Strategies for empowering cross-border languages found in Botswana: towards regional harmonisation

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Botswana

Botswana, as one of the countries in Southern Africa, is a landlocked state, engulfed by four countries, namely South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia. Although it is a medium sized country, it has a population of only 1.7 million people, as much of the land is arid. It has 28 languages, belonging to three language families, namely Bantu (a sub-branch of Niger Congo), Khoisan and Germanic (a sub-branch of Indo-European). According to the country's language policy, Setswana is the national language, while English is the official language. The other languages have localized functions.

This paper seeks to explore those languages used across the borders including Setswana and English. Recommendations will then be put forward in order to strengthen regional communication since not many people are able to communicate in Setswana and English.