

Dialectal differences among the people of Dagbon

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This article intends to discuss the Dialectal differences among the people of Dabon in the Northen Part of Ghana and its educational implications. There are various reasons why a particular dialect is spoken by a particular group of people. The three major dialects exist as a result of their origination, location and other factors that would be discussed in details later. This poses a very huge problem in documentation of the language, because in formal education, only Dagbani is studied and written.

The number of speakers of each of the three major dialects and their geographical location determines its decrease or increase in use. The coming into contact with other language speakers through migration is another factor to be discussed.

Even though the three dialects have differences in their word pronunciation and writing, they sometimes refer to the same item. It is only in some few cases where different pronunciation and writing refers to different items. These differences usually occur in their nouns and verbs usage examples of which will be discussed in details.

It is significant to note that those three groups of people originate from one ancestor and have their paramount chiefs as the custodians of the land and its tradition and custom.

This paper would also discuss address forms which are deemed to be essential polite signifiers and which are clear indications of the dialectal difference of the people of Dagbon. It will describe their structure and where and how they are used.