

Nigeria and multilingualism: the situation report

Olutola Osunnuga

Olabisi Onabnajo University - Nigeria

Nigeria, like most other African countries, is multilingual and mostly faces the problem of adopting an official language which in reality does not aid effective communication and meaningful development. On the other hand, scholars and governments have viewed multilingualism as an asset which if well utilized will aid rapid development in all sectors of the economy. These different views have made it relatively difficult to address multilingualism and accord it necessary developmental programmes. This paper, therefore, examines some basic problems and challenges that language researchers and government policy makers face in their 'honest' attempt to develop Nigerian languages. The paper identifies ambiguous language policy as the major hindrance toward achieving progress in developing Nigerian languages. The paper concludes by outlining specific factors to be considered in developing various Nigerian languages with a view to enhancing national development.