



THE USE OF NIGERIAN LANGUAGES IN FORMAL EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract:

Language plays an important role in teaching and learning situations, not only as a subject taught in school but also, as the vehicle through which information is shared between the learner and the teacher. It is therefore important to use an appropriate language in education. The word appropriate in this sense means a language that can effectively capture and interpret all the aspirations of the teacher to the learner in a way that he or she best understands. The trend all over the world especially among the developed countries is that the Mother Tongue is equally used in the school system as the medium of instruction. This factor has helped those countries (China, Japan, India, and South Africa to mention but a few) in no small way in achieving an enviable development among the committee of nations because learners are able to transfer concepts learnt in the mother tongue easily. However, it is sad to note that Nigeria, a multilingual with over 400 living languages seems to be reluctant to tap into the benefits of using the Mother Tongue in its system of education. This paper delves into the various challenges that confront the adoption of an indigenous language as a medium of instruction in formal education in Nigeria and their solutions. Keywords: Mother Tongue, Language of Education, Challenges, Solutions, Formal Education.

Keywords:

Language, Education, Nigerian, System, Solution.