

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i	
Certification	ii	
Dedication	iii	
Acknowledgement	iv	
Abstract	vi	
Table of Contents		vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION		
1.1 Background of Study	1	
1.2 Significance and Scope of Study	2	
1.3 Purpose of this Study	3	
1.4 Methodology	3	
1.5 Statement of Problem	4	
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW		
2.0 Concept of Attitude	5	
2.1 Definition and Explanation of Language Attitude	8	
2.2 Determinant of Language Attitude	11	
2.2.1 The Home/Family	12	
2.2.2 The Government	13	
2.2.3 The School	15	
2.2.4 Negligence/Ignorance	17	
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY		
3.1 Description of Instruments (Questionnaire)	26	
3.2 Population of the Study		27
3.3 Method of Data Analysis	27	
3.4 Data Presentation and Analysis	28	
3.5 Data Analysis	28	
CHAPTER FOUR		
4.0 Result/Effect of Language Attitude	43	
4.1 Language Shift	43	
4.2 Language Standardization	45	
4.3 Language Death	46	
CHAPTER FIVE		
5.1 Conclusion	52	
5.2 Recommendations	53	
References		55
Appendix		58

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the time past, language attitudes has been analyzed and debated upon with respect to how languages can be endangered, and how they can die. The two main points to be considered in this research are: attitude and language, and how teenagers manipulate them.

Attitude is defined as the way that one thinks and feels about somebody or something, the way that one behaves towards somebody or something that shows how one thinks and feels. While language is defined as the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country. Also, another dictionary definition of language is a particular style of speaking or writing.

So for the purpose of further development and preservation of the Ibibio Language, this research is going to be concerned with the behaviour exhibited by teenagers in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State particularly those in the Uyo Local Government Area of the State to their indigenous language

1.2 Significance and Scope of the Study

The study "language attitudes among teenagers and its effects" is a study of how language is being approached and manipulated by teenagers in Uyo district of Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, for their day-to-day interaction, fellowship and relationship.

1.3 Purpose of this Study

This research aims at seeing why teenagers behave the way they do to language (what influence and inform the behaviour so exhibited to language), see the effect of their behaviour on their indigenous language, and proffer possible solutions aimed at internalizing the language in the minds of these teenagers thereby preserving the language.

1.4 Methodology

In analyzing various related texts in relation to this field, a socio-linguistic method of approach is used in examining the behaviour or attitudes exhibited by teenagers in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to their indigenous language vis-à-vis English and pidgin.

Also, questionnaires are used in the observation of their attitude to language as a means of data collection.

1.5 Statement of the Problem

Most language users do not see the language that they speak as a definition of their race, their culture, and their personality. Negligence, ignorance and quest to follow the current trend have left Africans in

general and Nigerians in particular far from their root – their source/who they really are.

So in this research, ways in which we have drifted from our culture (through the embracing of a foreign language) are being elaborated upon, and suggestions on how to re-position our attitude to our indigenous language are made explicit.

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