

ADVOCACY FOR MOTHER TONGUE USAGE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study elucidates the importance of revitalizing mother tongue in Nigeria for national development. Employing a comprehensive review and philosophical analysis, based on the qualitative library research method, the research uncovered some historical, educational, and socio-economic challenges obstructing the utilization of indigenous languages. The findings underscored the enduring impact of colonialism, inadequate educational policies, economic motivations favouring English, technological disparities, and global influences as factors militating against mother tongue use. Further, the study identified regional industrialization, political acknowledgment of indigenous languages, integration of mother tongue into education, the use of indigenous languages in media and technology, hubs for language preservation, education and cultural exchange, cultural celebrations, inclusive language policies, linguistic research, and public awareness campaigns as essential strategies for the revitalization of mother tongues in Nigeria. These strategic initiatives, if implemented, could catalyse the revitalization of mother tongues and pave the way for sustainable national development.

Keywords: language, mother tongue, education, culture preservation, national development

Introduction

Language is the cornerstone of human communication, fostering growth and development. It is the bedrock of civilization, enabling the exchange of information, cooperation, and understanding among species (Solanke, 2006). The intricate relationship between language and national development is gaining scholarly attention. The mother tongue, beyond a communication tool, carries culture, identity, and knowledge transmission (Skutnabb-Kangas, 1994). Recognizing the pivotal roles

of the mother tongue is crucial as nations strive for sustainable development. Research underscores the significance of preserving linguistic diversity for socio-economic growth. In connection with this, the present paper explores the dynamic interplay between the mother tongue and national development, with a focus on Nigeria –a nation known for its rich tapestry of over 500 languages (Eberhard et al., 2021). Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups present both challenges and opportunities for development.

The term, 'mother tongue', denotes the primary language an individual learns at home and shares with his or her family (Ogara, 2014). This innate, personal language carries cultural and emotional significance, which underscores its role as a fundamental means of self-expression (Fishman, 1968). Crucially, the mother tongue functions as a channel for developing and transmitting shared values and traditions within a society. In this aspect, Olaoye (2007), allows individuals from a specific locale to appreciate jokes, understand idiomatic expressions, and interpret non-verbal signs within the context of their community's language. It is essential to distinguish the mother tongue from an indigenous language, which is native to a specific region or country and spoken by particular ethnic or cultural groups within a larger population.

According to UNESCO (2003), an indigenous language is a language that is native to a particular territory and is spoken by indigenous peoples, who are the original inhabitants of that territory. Indigenous languages are an integral part of the cultural identity and heritage of indigenous peoples, and they play a vital role in maintaining cultural diversity and promoting linguistic diversity. The pivotal difference between mother tongue and indigenous language lies in the personal and familial context of the mother tongue, acquired within the home environment. Consider a Yoruba child born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria: **Mother tongue** is Yoruba (acquired at home from parents and family members); and **Indigenous language** is also Yoruba, as it is the language of the Yoruba people, an indigenous ethnic group in South western Nigeria. Alternatively, consider a child of Igbo parents born and raised in Lagos: **Mother tongue** is Igbo (acquired at home from parents and family members); and **Indigenous language** is not necessarily Igbo in this context, as Igbo is not indigenous to Lagos – Yoruba is. In essence, the mother tongue encapsulates a personal, familial language, while an indigenous language represents the broader linguistic identity of specific ethnic or cultural groups.

The case of mother tongue in Nigeria is unique. The colonial amalgamation of diverse indigenous societies into a place called 'Nigeria' led to the emergence of English as the lingua franca. This imposed a challenge on local languages, hindering their development prospects. Despite the dominance of the English language in Nigeria, there is a growing inclination to revert to the indigenous languages. The belief that local languages simplify communication and are more development-oriented is gaining traction. In this regard, Afolayan (1984) argues that indigenous languages are crucial for national development, as they facilitate grassroots communication and

participation. Bamgbose (1991) also emphasizes the importance of local languages in promoting cultural identity, social integration, and economic development.

The intricate relationship between mother tongue, development, and human development has garnered significant attention in recent years, particularly in multilingual countries like Nigeria. Development, referring to the process of economic, social, and political transformation aimed at improving the quality of life, seems to be deeply intertwined with language. Human development, a broader concept, encompasses the expansion of capabilities, freedom, and well-being, enabling individuals to lead fulfilling lives. Language also seems to play a vital role in this process. However, Nigeria's linguistic diversity, with over 250 ethnic groups and more than 500 languages (as reported by Eberhard et al., 2021), poses some challenges. The colonial legacy of English as the lingua franca has marginalized indigenous languages, hindering their potential to contribute to development. Despite efforts to promote language preservation, the dominance of English persists.

The present study investigated the relationship between mother tongue and development in Nigeria, focusing on the role of mother tongue in promoting cultural identity, social cohesion, and economic empowerment, overall, national development. Motivated by the growing recognition of the significance of language in development discourse, this research aimed to address gaps in existing literature. Previous studies, for examples, Afolayan (1984); Bamgbose (1991); and Euba (2013), have highlighted the importance of indigenous languages in Nigeria's development, but few have explored the intersection of language, culture, and economic growth. This study examined the intersections between language preservation, cultural identity, and socio-economic development. The study employed the qualitative library research method, synthesizing existing literature from academic journals, books, and policy documents. A review of relevant literature and theoretical frameworks has helped to provide insights into the complex relationships between mother tongue and development. This study will benefit policymakers, educators, and stakeholders involved in language planning and development initiatives. By highlighting the importance of indigenous languages in promoting human development, this study aimed to inform strategies for the preservation of cultural diversity while fostering socio-economic growth. In addition, the findings will contribute to the ongoing discourse on language policy and planning in Nigeria, ultimately enhancing the country's development prospects.

Literature Review

The significance of mother tongue in national development has garnered attention from scholars. Afolayan (1984) conducted a study on the importance of mother tongue instruction in education, employing a mixed-methods approach that combined surveys and interviews. The study's findings highlighted that linguistic diversity hinders socioeconomic progress, emphasizing the need for mother tongue instruction.

Similarly, Bamgbose (1991) advocated mother tongue promotion as crucial for national development in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, Bamgbose's study focused on the relationship between language and economic development in the region, differing from the present study's focus on promoting cultural diversity and national cohesion in Nigeria. Euba (2013) examined the challenges and benefits of mother tongue instruction in Nigerian education, employing a qualitative approach that involved case studies and interviews. The study emphasized the importance of a multilingual approach in promoting cultural diversity. Ogunbiyi (2014) investigated the interconnections between language, culture, and development, using a mixed-methods approach that combined surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. The study highlighted the significance of mother tongue preservation in promoting cultural identity and national cohesion. Orwa (2021) examined the role of indigenous languages in enhancing sustainable development in Kenya, focusing on attitudes towards their use in education, technology, and local businesses. The study adopted a quantitative survey design, utilizing a questionnaire as the data collection instrument. Data collected from 75 speakers of five major indigenous languages in Kenya revealed valuable insights into the potential of these languages in driving economic development. The study highlighted that language is an indispensable tool in promoting sustainable development, and indigenous languages, as instruments of empowerment, possess immense linguistic, cultural, and human potential. Indigenous languages contribute significantly to African countries' cultural and material economies, making them vital for promoting poverty alleviation programs, environmental conservation, and quality healthcare. The study recommended strategies for improving the functionality of indigenous languages and emphasized the need for tailored language policies to harness the potential of Kenya's over 60 indigenous languages in transforming the country's economy.

Yusuf and Joshua (2022) examined the role of indigenous languages in national development, with a focus on native languages in China and Nigeria. They argue that language can shape cultural development and contribute to a nation's societal growth. The significance of Mandarin in Chinese technology and socio-economic development highlights China's successful language promotion. Conversely, as Yusuf and Joshua contend, Nigeria has a rich tapestry of local languages, presenting challenges in integrating them into national development endeavours. Their paper employed the critical case sampling data collection method and emphasized the value of indigenous languages in preserving culture, fostering inclusivity, and enhancing socio-economic growth. The research findings revealed that Nigeria's neglect of indigenous languages has affected effective communication, grassroots development initiatives, and cultural identity. This underscores the significance of promoting indigenous languages and Nigerian Pidgin English (Nigerian *Lingua Franca*) across education, governance, and media platforms to foster inclusivity, preserve cultural heritage, and drive sustainable development.

Despite the existing body of research, gaps remain in the literature. Previous studies have primarily concentrated on linguistic diversity, language policy, and cultural preservation, overlooking the critical intersections between language preservation, education, and socio-economic growth. By building upon the foundations laid by these existing studies and addressing their gaps, this research offered a more balanced and contextualized understanding of the role of mother tongue usage in promoting national development in Nigeria.

Methodology

This study was mainly the qualitative library research. Qualitative library research involves analyzing and synthesizing existing literature to gain insights into a research problem. This approach was particularly suitable for exploring complex issues, identifying patterns and themes, and developing theoretical frameworks. The rationale for choosing this methodology was based on several factors. Existing literature on the topic of mother tongue usage and national development in Nigeria provides a solid foundation for analysis. Also, library research enables the examination of existing theories and conceptual frameworks, allowing for a deeper understanding of the research problem. Qualitative library research also offered depth over breadth, facilitating in-depth analysis of selected literature and providing nuanced insights into the research problem. Furthermore, this approach saves time and minimizes resource utilization, thereby eliminating the need for primary data collection. The procedure for conducting this research involved a systematic search of academic databases, online libraries, and relevant journals. Literature selection was based on relevance, publication date, and peer-review status. Finally, synthesis of findings provides a comprehensive understanding of mother tongue usage and national development in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical frameworks guiding this study include Bamgbose's (1991) language planning and policy theories; Ogunbiyi's (2014) cultural identity theory; and Sen's (1999) human development frameworks. Bamgbose's (1991) language planning and policy theories examine the deliberate efforts made to influence language use, language teaching, and language policy. The theories provided foundational framework for understanding language planning, highlighting its significance in shaping linguistic diversity and national identity. According to Bamgbose, language planning involves four stages: goal-setting, implementation, evaluation, and feedback. This framework enables researchers to analyze language policy decisions, their implementation, and subsequent consequences. Language planning and policy theories are crucial in this study as they inform the analysis of mother tongue promotion and its impact on national development. By understanding language policy

and planning frameworks, researchers could examine how language policy influences mother tongue instruction, cultural identity, and socio-economic development.

Cultural identity theory, as expounded by Ogunbiyi (2014), emphasizes the complex relationships between language, culture, and identity. This theory posits that language plays a vital role in shaping cultural identity, influencing individual and group perceptions, values, and norms. Ogunbiyi's work highlighted the significance of language in maintaining cultural heritage and promoting social cohesion. Cultural identity theory informs the analysis of mother tongue's role in shaping national identity, cultural preservation, and social integration. This study draws on cultural identity theory to examine how mother tongue promotion influences cultural identity, national cohesion, and socio-economic development. An understanding of the intersections between language, culture, and identity will enable researchers to develop nuanced strategies for promoting mother tongue instruction and cultural preservation.

Human development frameworks, pioneered by Sen (1999), emphasize the expansion of capabilities, freedom, and well-being, enabling individuals to lead fulfilling lives. Sen's capability approach prioritizes individual agency, freedom, and participation in economic, social, and cultural activities. Human development frameworks are essential in this study as they provide a comprehensive understanding of development beyond economic indicators. Examining mother tongue promotion through the lens of human development will help researchers assess its impact on cognitive development, self-esteem, and socio-economic empowerment. Sen's capability approach informs the analysis of mother tongue's role in enhancing human development, focusing on the importance of linguistic diversity and cultural identity in promoting cognitive development, self-esteem, and socio-economic empowerment.

The present study integrated language planning and policy theories; cultural identity theory; and human development frameworks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of mother tongue promotion on national development. It drew upon these theoretical frameworks to examine the complex relationships between language, culture, and development, prescribing strategies for promoting mother tongue instruction, cultural preservation, and socioeconomic empowerment.

The Relationship between Mother Tongue and Development

Development is "the gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced, stronger, etc." (Oxford, 2010). The correlation between mother tongue and development is evident in the fact that language plays a pivotal role in stabilizing cultural uniformity and facilitating interpersonal cognitive communication, as emphasized by Amadi (2012). The UNESCO accord of 1951 advocates initiating formal education in one's mother tongue, asserting that any language, including the mother tongue, can be a vehicle for modern civilization. International organizations, such as UNESCO, have consistently supported the use and development of the mother

tongue, recognizing that sustainable development begins through an individual's simplest communication channel often represented by their mother tongue. Against the assertion that initial steps into an individual's civilization are best taken using their mother tongue (Dutcher, 1995; Cummins, 2000; Laguarda & Woodward, 2013), Nyika (2015), however, points out a paucity of empirical evidence regarding the long-term impact of using vernacular languages up until secondary or tertiary levels in terms of graduates' capability to contribute to socio-economic development. The sub-sections below discuss the key roles that the mother tongue played in several aspects of development – social, political, economic, education and national development – in Nigeria.

Mother Tongue and Social Development

The development of a child begins with the mother tongue, serving as the initial instrument for social engagement and learning about the immediate environment. Chomsky (1972) argues that children are genetically endowed with language acquisition techniques, simplifying the learning of the mother tongue. Similarly, Oloye (2009) asserts that the mother tongue is instrumental in guiding a child through the speech acts and interactions within the family and community.

The social system, governed by interpersonal and inter-group exchanges, relied on the communication of cultural norms and values through language. Oloye (2009) states that indigenous languages are essential for peace-building, as people who speak the same language tend to trust each other more. Conversely, waMberia, K. (2015), contends that the multiplicity of indigenous languages may contribute to inter-community and inter-race conflicts, as people may trust only those who speak their language. For the present researchers, this fear of inter-community or race conflicts, as expressed by waMberia, K. (2015) could be combated if the citizens of the multilingual country learn to be multilingual themselves, learning other indigenous languages in the country, apart from their very own mother tongue. The love of their mother tongue will encourage them to learn the other local mother tongues in their country. In this vein, (Ogara, 2014) argues that local languages play crucial role in fostering cultural nationalism and enhancing the knowledge of the Nigerian culture.

Mother Tongue and Political Development

Political development involves advancing the leadership goals and objectives of a people. Akaegbobi et al. (2016) argue that language plays a vital role in garnering support for political agendas. Political representatives effectively use their indigenous languages in campaigns to connect with supporters, increasing political participation of the masses. The mother tongue becomes the cornerstone in determining political pathways, addressing issues such as gender equality, poverty eradication, education, national security, and economic growth. Indigenous languages allow for effective communication with the common masses, thereby shaping the political landscape.

Mother Tongue and Economic Development

In Nigeria, economic development heavily relies on various sub-system economies, including rural markets, and small and medium-sized businesses. Effective communication is central to economic transactions, and indigenous languages are viewed as highly effective channels for business exchanges. Ozoemena et al. (2019) assert that communication, which is essential for human interaction, occurs through the instrumentality of a language. Indigenous languages enable individuals to initiate and consummate business contracts in the terms they understand, contributing to economic development. However, the use of English as the main official language excludes many people from participating in national dialogue, hindering economic progress. Despite the effectiveness of indigenous languages in local transactions, the multiplicity of these languages posed challenges in capturing wide markets across the country. While indigenous languages are integral to economic development at the grassroots level, the challenge lies in finding a balance between their effectiveness in local transactions and the need for a lingua franca to conduct business across the entire nation. Though a lingua franca may be necessary in economic transactions among different ethnic groups, learning other ethnic group's mother tongues and using them for economic transactions with the people could be better than using a language foreign to both the seller and the buyer. This promotes multilingualism, competence in the different Nigerian languages, also unity among the Nigerian people.

Mother Tongue and National Development

When applied to a nation, development signifies the progression toward an advanced society, encompassing characteristics such as heightened self-awareness, improved health standards, a robust education system, high industrial productivity, competitive international trade performance, technological growth, and comprehensive security measures. The achievement of these features would be facilitated when communication and instruction utilize a language easily understood by the members of society, and the mother tongue invariably serves as such a channel. Khan (2016) supports this idea, demonstrating that instruction in an individual's first language enhances access and equity, improves learning outcomes, reduces repetition and dropout rates, increases socio-cultural benefits, and lowers overall costs. These outcomes aligned with the essential components of national development. Education is a key component in national development; hence, the relationship between education and the mother tongue were discussed in the following subsection:

Education and the Mother Tongue

Njoku (2017) emphasizes that human resources development through education and training programs relies on language. Mother tongue education, according to Juliana, plays crucial role in mobilizing rural populations for various national developmental

programs, fostering activities such as agriculture, fishery, and vocational training. In the same vein, Tsapko et al. (2018) argue that language is a political and social element in building, unifying, and maintaining a nation, especially when it represents the first language of the people. Also, the UNESCO (1953) report advocates that preserving diverse languages was essential as they embody an extraordinary wealth of human creativity.

The connection between using native languages in educational instructions and positive national development is tangible. Regarding early childhood education, many scholars tend to believe that using the mother tongue at this level of education facilitates better understanding and learning, leading to improved literacy and educational outcomes. Opega (2004), for example, contends that a child raised with positive societal values through their language develops a healthy and progressive mind essential for positive national development. Also, Tsapko et al. (2018) asserts that national consciousness, including patriotism, stems from inculcating values through language. Effective communication, essential for social cohesion and economic development, is enhanced by mother tongue proficiency, fostering cooperation and understanding within communities. Despite the acknowledgment of the role of the indigenous languages in fostering unity in Nigeria's multi-ethnic and multi-lingual context, the government lacks practical encouragement toward this objective (Tsapko et al., 2018).

Using the mother tongue entails the preservation of traditional knowledge, as many traditional practices, stories, and wisdom were embedded in the mother tongues. This preservation contributed to the richness of traditional wisdom. Economically, a workforce proficient in its mother tongue is likely to be more productive. Local businesses benefit from effective communication, and individuals can actively participate in economic activities. Cultural identity was deeply intertwined with the mother tongue, and preserving diverse mother tongues in Nigeria helps maintain the rich cultural tapestry of the nation. Nigeria's linguistic diversity is a valuable asset; hence, embracing mother tongues usage in Nigeria would invariably promote and celebrate this. That, in turn, will help in fostering equity and a sense of national pride that accommodates various cultural expressions. In summary, mother tongue, especially in the context of Nigeria, played vital role in national development by preserving cultural identity, enhancing education, facilitating effective communication, and contributing to economic growth. Recognizing the link between mother tongue and national development enhanced the formulation of policies and practices that harness the potential of linguistic diversity for the overall progress of the nation.

Meaningful national development is intricately linked to the proper use of language as a means of communication. The mother tongue was among an individual's first identities in life, and this study delved into its role in achieving sustainable national development. It played crucial role in national development by serving as a foundation

for effective communication, education, and cultural preservation. In Nigeria, a country marked by linguistic and cultural diversity, embracing and promoting mother tongues has several positive impacts. While the mother tongue is a potent channel for effective communication, its application needs more emphasis in the educational policies of Nigeria.

Factors Militating Against the Use of Mother Tongue in Nigeria

The role of mother tongue in national development is undisputed, yet the effective utilization of indigenous languages in Nigeria faces multifaceted challenges. This academic exploration delves into the factors militating against the use of mother tongue, drawing insights from key authors and scholarly perspectives.

Colonial Legacy: The enduring impact of colonialism on language choices is well-documented. The imposition of English during the colonial era established a linguistic hierarchy, as observed by scholars such as Tsuda (2007). The colonial legacy continues to influence language preferences, hindering the widespread acceptance of mother tongues in formal settings.

Educational Policies: Educational policies play a pivotal role in shaping language dynamics. The absence of comprehensive policies supporting mother tongue instruction is highlighted by scholars like Skutnabb-Kangas (1994) and Cummins (2000). The lack of a clear policy framework contributes to the marginalization of indigenous languages in formal education.

Economic Considerations: Economic motivations influencing language choices align with the economic theory of language proposed by Bourdieu (1977). The perception that proficiency in English correlates with economic success is deeply ingrained, perpetuating the dominance of English in professional and economic spheres.

Technological Challenges: The impact of technological disparities on language representation was noted by Verma et al. (2022). The digital divide exacerbates the challenges faced by indigenous languages in online spaces. The dearth of digital infrastructure supporting mother tongue content restricts its presence in the digital realm.

Globalization and Cultural Shifts: Globalization's influence on language preferences can be seen in Crystal, D. (2003). The perception that global success was tied to proficiency in major global languages has led to the marginalization of indigenous languages in certain contexts.

Perceived Modernity: The association of language with modernity and progress was addressed by scholars such as Pennycook (1998) and Auerbach (1993). The perception that indigenous languages are antiquated impedes their integration into contemporary social, educational, and professional spheres.

Limited Resources and Support: The correlation between language development and resource allocation was emphasized by Fishman (1991). Limited resources and inadequate support for the development of indigenous languages constrain initiatives aimed at revitalization and integration.

From the foregoing, the factors militating against the use of the mother tongue in Nigeria are deeply rooted in historical, educational, and socio-economic contexts. Addressing these challenges necessitates comprehensive efforts, as informed by insights from prominent scholars in linguistics, education, and cultural studies. It was through such scholarly lens that effective strategies for promoting the use of mother tongue in various domains were formulated and implemented

Suggestions for the Revitalization of Mother Tongues in Nigeria

In the face of globalization and the dominance of international languages like English and French, the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages in Nigeria require a strategic and multifaceted approach. The following suggestions outlined key initiatives for revitalizing mother tongues in the country:

Industrialization as a Catalyst: The reliance on international languages often stems from the need for essential commodities supplied externally. Encouraging regional industrialization could reduce this dependence, fostering increased communication within regions and providing an environment conducive enough for the use of indigenous languages.

Political Recognition and Policy Prioritization: Indigenous languages should be recognized as a national asset, and political authorities should prioritize their preservation. Implementing policies that acknowledge the importance of mother tongues, backed by reasonable incentives, can motivate intensive language use and learning.

Educational Initiatives: Parents and teachers play a pivotal role in language transmission. Promoting the use of indigenous languages at home creates an immersive language learning environment for children, ensuring familiarity with the grammar and literature of the language.

Curriculum Integration: Integrating indigenous languages into the national curriculum emphasizes their importance in education. This approach ensures that students are exposed to and are proficient in their mother tongues, fostering a sense of cultural identity.

Media and Technology Engagement: Leveraging media platforms and technology can be instrumental in this drive for mother tongue revitalisation. Developing content, including literature, movies, and educational materials, in indigenous languages enhances their visibility and accessibility, making them more appealing to the younger generation.

Community Language Centres: Establishing community language centres provides a dedicated space for learning and practicing indigenous languages. These centres can offer language courses, cultural programs, and events to strengthen community bonds and language proficiency.

Cultural Festivals and Events: Organizing cultural festivals and events that celebrate linguistic diversity creates a platform for the active use of mother tongues. Such occasions not only showcase the richness of indigenous languages but also instil a sense of pride and identity in the people using the languages.

Inclusive Language Policies: Implementing inclusive language policies in public institutions, including government offices and educational institutions, ensures that indigenous languages are given due recognition and become integral parts of official communication.

Research and Documentation: Encouraging linguistic research and documentation preserves the linguistic heritage. Creating comprehensive dictionaries, language resources, and literature contributes to the continued existence and development of indigenous languages.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Launching public awareness campaigns about the cultural and social importance of mother tongues fosters a positive attitude toward their usage. These campaigns can dispel myths about the limitations of indigenous languages and promote their value in daily life.

In sum, the revitalization of mother tongues in Nigeria demands a concerted effort from various stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, communities, and the media. By implementing these strategic initiatives, Nigeria could strengthen the presence and relevance of its indigenous languages, ensuring they continue to thrive alongside international languages.

Conclusion

This study was an advocacy for the use of the mother tongues among the citizenry of Nigeria to facilitate national development. It touches on Nigeria's history, unveiling the impact of colonialism, particularly the imposition of English, on native languages. The dominance of foreign languages hindered the growth of local languages for business

and scientific use, exacerbated by linguistic diversity. The study, thus, advocates for the essential roles of the mother tongue in civic and political education. Multilingual education, especially in native languages, is necessary for fostering literacy, socio-political stability, and national unity. Early child development rooted in the mother tongue was underscored as crucial. A resounding call was made for concerted efforts to revitalize indigenous languages. Involvement from political authorities, parents, and society were essential. This revitalization was not only a linguistic necessity but a strategic pathway to sustainable national development. With linguistic diversity, Nigeria could harmonize her cultural richness, for progress. The responsibility for this revitalization lies with both policymakers and individuals, envisioning a Nigeria that celebrates its heritage while progressing toward a linguistically diverse future.

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