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LINGUISTIC CHANGES OF HAUSA LANGUAGE OF ABAKWA DIALECT AND

THE EFFECTS OF SURROUNDING LANGUAGES IN BURUKU LOCAL

GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

THESIS FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) IN

LINGUISTICS

BY

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DECLARATION

“I hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research efforts; undertaken under the supervision of Professor Babiker Hassan Qadri Mari and has not been presented and will not be presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate. All sources have been duly acknowledged under the cover term references”.

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CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

I dedicated this Thesis to my Late Father Alhaji Aboki Muhammadu Danpanna.

(The Wakilin Bantaje) & my Mother A'isha Adamu Dan Isa.

QUOTATION

“Of course, as Haugen notes, the donor need not be aware of the loan and does not consent to it, while the recipient need not repay it; but since alternative metaphors, like stealing or adoption, are at least equally absurd, we shall stick to borrowing” (Haugen. 1950: 201-31).

ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS

ABK	-	Abakwa
SH	-	Standard Hausa
Etl	-	Etulo
C	-	Consonant
V	-	Vowel
DERG.	-	Derogatory
Masc.	-	Masculine
Fem.	-	Feminine
Nn	-	Noun
Adj.	-	Adjective
ADV.	-	Adverb
ADVM	-	Adverb of manner
BC	-	Belize Creole
Vb.	-	Verb
TRS. VB	-	Transitive Verb
Nn. Obj.	-	Noun Object
Ref.	-	Referential
PSM	-	Person Singular Masculine
IPPI	-	Independent Plural
Hau	-	Hausa
Eng	-	English

PrNn.	-	Pronoun
TM	-	Tense marker
GTC	-	General Continuous Tense
Nyf	-	Nyifon
Lit.	-	Literary
#	-	Morpheme Boundary
→	-	To become
*	-	Sign of unacceptability
´	-	High tone
`	-	Low tone
^	-	Fallen

Abstract

This research work looks at the linguistic changes of Hausa language of Abakwa dialect and the effects of surrounding languages in Buruku local government area of Benue State, Nigeria. The research X-rays the aim and objectives, scope and limitation of the study, research questions, hypothesis of the study, background of the study, historical background of Abakwa, migration and its causes, historical background of the surrounding languages i.e. the Etulo/Turmawa, Nyifon/Nyonyos, and the Tiv, causes of linguistic change, inter-generation transmission, variation and prestige, diffusion, teleology in language change, external causes, contact languages, pidginization, creolization and the theoretical framework anchored on “*knowledge versus ignorance*”. The study also dealt with the non-linguistic factors and dialect versus language issues, speech communities, the role of frequency in language change/kinds of variation, frequency and phonological erosion/phonological variation, morphological variation/frequency and the undertransmission of morphosyntax, syntactic variation/frequency and grammaticalization, semantic variation, language and socioeconomic status which encompasses: prestige, geography, ethnicity, class, speech style, pronunciation, syntax and vocabulary. Furthermore, the study was also able to review some of the related literatures, the methodology used in this research work includes, library documents, tape recording, interview, and internet sources. The research points and thrashed out the Abakwa phonetic variations, consonants and vowels chart parade i.e. both long and short ones in comparison with that of the STH, diphthongization of vowels, the Abakwa orthography, phonological processes such as labialization/delabialization, palatalization, assimilation viz: simple, voicing and nasal assimilation, glottalization, tonal polarization, syllabification its nature and typology, apocope, syncope, epenthesis, morphological variation, affixation, inflection, gender and number formation, lexical plural suffixes, post-lexical plural suffixes, exaggerative plural forms, compounding and its types, syntactic variation such as simple sentence, complex sentence, interrogative sentence, command or imperative sentence, parts of speech these includes, noun, pronoun, interrogative dependent and independent pronoun, the Abakwa tenses i.e. habitual tense, general continuous tense, first future tense, second future tense, and subjunctive tense. The work also highlight on the idiomatic expression of Abakwa lexical entries, the effects of the surrounding languages like the Tiv, the Nyifons/Nyonyos, and the Etulo/Turmawa. Finally, the research was able to conclude with some linguistic findings such as phonological evidence thus they includes: delabialization, deimplosivization, context-sensitive voicing, resyllabification, consonant strengthening-weakening and vowel simplification, morphological evidence, syntactic evidence i.e. complex sentence evidence and interrogative evidence, and idiomatic evidence.