



CHALLENGES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING LOCAL LANGUAGES IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION: FULFULDE LANGUAGE IN FOCUS

USMAN BOBBO ILIYASU

Federal College of Education Yola

Abstract

The important of language cannot be over emphasized. It is very vital part of human life. It is also a natural phenomenon which is used for the purpose of communicating meaning in the society. Therefore, this paper examines the concept of globalization, challenge of teaching and learning Fulfulde language. The paper prefers some teaching strategies that could be used to simplify teaching and learning of Fulfulde language so that more nonnatives speakers can learn the language and communicate favorably with the native speaker in this era of globalization.

Keywords: *Teaching, Learning, Local Languages, Fulfulde, Globalization*

Introduction

The concept of globalization has been featuring in the past quarter of the century because of its impact in all spheres of life. This was made possible because of the universe which have rendered the world into global village. Globalization as a concept is a widely used term that can be defined in a number of different ways ESCWA when used in a stiff economic context. It refers to the reduction and removal of Barrie's between national borders in order to facilitate the flow of goods and capital services.

Globalization as a concept was founded in the basis of proliferation of industries and the increasing dependence on humanity on technology, which began in the in the 19th century. This led to competition among technologically advanced countries to wage in their dominance on the technologically less developed countries. This is why Babangida (1998) in koroma (2006) defined globalization as the liberation and intensification international linkages in trade, finance, research, transportation, that is accelerated by discoveries in micro electrics and biotechnology, these forms

of cooperation and linkages have created interdependency in the global system rather than being skeptical about this child of necessity (globalization) and labeled it capitalist oriented, we must be prepared and face the challenges.

Fulfulde language being one among the languages spoken by the large communities of people known as Fulbe in Nigeria has to be tailored to meet the modern techniques of teaching and thereby suit the globalization process. This paper aims at reviewing approaches to Fulfulde language teaching so that the language can meet up with the present challenges of globalization thereby making it possible for more non-native speakers to participate in the teaching and learning process of the language.

Challenges of Teaching and Learning Local Language in the Era of Globalization Fulfulde Language in Focus.

Both native and non-native speakers of Fulfulde language are facing a multi-dimensional problem of speaking and writing the language, a problem such as lexical, phonological, morphological, and semantic among others. In a bid to address these problems the following teaching strategies are proffered.

Teaching strategies

Tape recorder: The tape recorder has been grossly under-utilized for language teaching. The modern cassette tape recorder is far cheaper, handy and easier to manipulate by any language teacher.

Some of the potential instruments are:

A. Pronunciation drill. The tape recorder can be used for teaching pronunciation drills to Fulfulde learners. The learners can be exposed to single words (but never single phonemes) containing the particular phonemes being taught by the teacher. They can also be exposed to complete sentences or short passages which are structured to highlight the intonation pattern of Fulfulde reading passages to suit the demands of the syllabus. Both the teacher's voice and the learner's response should be recorded and played.

1) **Dictation Lessons:** The tape recorder can be utilized for giving dictation tests in a manner that both the receptive and productive skills are catered for simultaneously. This will assist the learners in mastering spellings, auditory discrimination, word order, grammar

and many other skills. In short, tape recorder is a perfect aid for ensuring uniformity of delivery when many classes are exposed to the same stimulus at difficult periods.

- 2) **Recording Learners Attempt:** Naturally learner would be better in spoken Fulfulde language if they have the opportunity of listening to their own recorded attempts. This is why the language laboratory exercise is of paramount importance. Group of two, three or four may be allowed to record their discussions, when these are played back to the class, all will be interested and they will be eager to detect their errors and other people's errors. Boredom is minimized and self-improvement enhanced.

D. Practices with Extracts from Native Fulfulde films: It is good to expose learners to recording from films especially those which employ more educated, more internationally intelligible Fulfulde rather than local slangs. The learners should be given instructions to carefully listen to the dialogue and answer the teacher-made comprehension questions on it.

E. Close Exercise: - In written form, the close test consists of a passage from which a number of words have been deleted. For each blank space, a number of alternative words are given, while the students are requested to choose only one from the alternative to fill in the gap. The teacher must prepare a clear version from which he/she will used to check the correctness of the students attempts.

F. Interaction with the Native Speaker of the Language: - The best and the quickest way to learn Fulfulde language in this era of globalization is to move closer to the native speaker of the language in order to learn more because it is easy to read and learn the grammar aspects of the language independently but the literature aspects of it cannot be learned without moving closer to them.

What is Language?

Language is defined by oxford advanced learners Dictionary of current English (2001), to mean, the system of communication in speech and writing that is use by people of a particular country. Ndimele (1999), from the Linguists point of view, described language as a semiotic system which uses an agreed symbols or signals to convey meaning from one person to another within a given speech community. Bloomfield (1968), defined language as: "Language is an all-encompassing medium, almost and certainly the oldest means of communication and expression, which is both central and

pervasive in the realm of all human thoughts. It is the basis of whatever social cohesion we can attain. It links the past intimately with the present and makes possible at least some continuity into the future.

To a large extent, it defines our very humanity. (26). The above definitions are meant to draw attention to the dynamic relationship between language and the society. In-fact, the concepts are interdependent, for example the definition of languages include in it, with reference to society, therefore, each influence and re-enforces the other. This is because of the unique role language plays in the living and eternally changing structure of our society.

Local Languages

Local languages in this paper referred to Nigerian languages meaning native languages of Nigeria but not foreign languages like English language which is used as lingual franca or which is called official language or language of instruction. Most people referred to it as Mother Tongue (UNESCO, 1953) sees it as the language in which a child first born to express his/her idea about himself/herself and about the environment or world in which he/she lives.

Olayemi (1980) defined mother tongue as any language indigenous to any linguistic community. It is through local languages which are being referred to as mother tongue that a child learns to love and respect the cultural heritage of his people and through which he cherished and respects the communication system of his people.

Conclusion

The study opined that if a non-native learner of Fulfulde is exposed to the various teaching strategies/techniques discussed, his/her learning of the language will be enhanced. In conclusion, recommendations were preferred to language teachers and non-native learners of Fulfulde.

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