

DIALECT VARIATION AND STANDARDIZATION:

A CASE STUDY OF FULFULDE IN

NORTHERN NIGERIA

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1153-07036-02524

A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF

HIGHER DEGREES AND RESEARCH AS PARTIAL

FULFILLMENT OF AWARD OF A MASTER

OF ARTS DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS OF

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL

UNIVERSITY

JULY, 2017

ABSTRACT

The study was concerned with the dialect variation and standardization of Fulfulde in Nigeria. It was guided by three (3) objectives; to show lexical variation of Fulfulde in Nigeria, to work out a proposal for standardization and to test the acceptability of the proposal to standardize Fulfulde in Nigeria. The study used cross sectional research design with a sample size of 105 respondents. It also employed qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyze the collected data by used of SPSS pack and the researcher used questionnaires to collect data from respondents. Two sets of questionnaires were used; for lectures and students. The study found out that lexical variation of Fulfulde exists in Nigeria. However, the respondents had unanimously accepted Fulfulde to be standardized, and the proposal for standardization had been worked as follows: The Fulfulde curriculum should be reviewed to contain only the Adamawa dialect; the Adamawa dialect should be enforced to be the language for the media as well as literary work and a National seminar should be held on Fulfulde to adopt the proposal for standardization. The study concluded that Adamawa dialect should be the dialect to be standardize and it major recommendations where government should review the National policy on education in respect of Fulfulde curriculum and to make it mandatory for all the dialect areas to adopt.