

## **Towards an Indigenous Language Policy for National Integration**

**Authors :** Odoh Dickson Akpegi

**Abstract :** The paper is about the need for an indigenous language in order to meaningfully harness both our human and material resources for the nation's integration. It then examines the nitty issue of the national language question and advocates a piece meal approach in solving the problem. This approach allows for the development and use of local languages in minority areas, especially in Benue State, as a way of preparing them for consideration as possible replacement for English language as Nigeria's national or official language. Finally, an arrangement to follow to prepare the languages for such competition at the national level is presented.

**Keywords :** indigenous language, English language, official language, National integration

**Conference Title :** ICLLL 2015 : International Conference on Linguistics and Language Learning

**Conference Location :** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Conference Dates :** September 13-15, 2015