

Language Endangerment: The English Language Creating a Concern for the Possible Extinction of Yorùbá Language*

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ABSTRACT An endangered language is one which has a possibility of going into extinction in the near future. Not only do languages die, speakers also die. This paper identifies that Yorùbá language which is widely spoken in the south-western Nigeria is largely endangered. In this paper, the researcher maintains that language extinction is real and Yorùbá is not safe from that threat as in few decades from now, the language might go into total extinction. When that happens, not only would the written and spoken words disappear but the Yorùbá culture too. Using a desk approach and descriptive analysis, this paper examines the cases of endangerment in Yorùbá language as observed from the impact of English language. The paper finds out that Yorùbá language is at a high risk of going into extinction in years to come.