

Traditional techniques of knowledge transmission in Kom and Mokpe: Towards a typology of language maintenance

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Early ethnophilosophers and anthropologists have ridiculed African oral tradition from varied dimensions. In typical traditional African communities, oral storytelling (including folk history) and occasion-specific traditional rituals as aspects of oral tradition are frequent occurrences that characterize different phases of life from the moment one is born to when they exit the world. The absence of folk history places a language one step closer to its extinction. This study employs sociolinguistic techniques to studying oral traditions as a means par excellence to understanding how cultural knowledge and/or values can contribute to preserve indigenous languages. Thus, this study isolates different hieratic expressions in, Kom rituals and oral storytelling pertaining to folk history and argue for their role in language maintenance.