

**THE PLACE OF STORYTELLING IN ÈDO LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION
AND PRESERVATION**

BY

**IGBINEDION PRECIOUS EHIGIAMUSOE (Miss)
ART2000541**

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS STUDIES

FACULTY OF ARTS,

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

FEBRUARY, 2025

**THE PLACE OF STORYTELLING IN ÈDO LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION
AND PRESERVATION**

BY

**IGBINEDION PRECIOUS EHIGIAMUSOE (Miss)
ART2000541**

**A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
STUDIES, FACULTY OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY. IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ART (B.A) IN LINGUISTICS STUDIES**

FEBRUARY, 2025

APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that this project was carried out by **IGBINEDION PRECIOUS EHINGIAMUSOE** in the Department of Linguistics Studies under my supervision.

DR. MRS. O.V EVBAYIRO

(Project Supervisor)

Date _____

Confirmed by

PROF. M. S. AGBO

(Head of Department)

Date: _____

PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATION

I, **IGBINEDION PRECIOUS EHIGIAMUSOE** with matriculation number **ART2000541** declare that this work titled **“THE PLACE OF STORYTELLING IN EDO LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION AND PRESERVATION”** has successfully passed the anti-plagiarism test and so does not violate any copyright regulations.

Sign: _____

IGBINEDION PRECIOUS EHIGIAMUSOE

Date: _____

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to God Almighty, whose grace, wisdom, and strength have guided me every step of the way. To my mother, Mrs. Rita Egharevba for her unconditional love, sacrifices, and unwavering support—I am forever grateful. To Mr. Kelvin Osamudiamen for his encouragement, support and belief in me thank you for always being there. To my siblings you guys are the best!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God, for seeing me through my stay in this great university. My gratitude goes to my wonderful parents Mr. and Mrs. Igbinedion for their prayers, patience, love and moral support all through my academic year. My Aunt (Miss Osayuki), Mr. Kelvin Osamudiamen (father), my dearest Friend Samuel Alasa, thank you for being a part of my life.

I will also like to acknowledge the immense support of my project supervisor for her patience and support, Dr (Mrs.) O.V. Evbayiro.

Also to all the lecturers that have in one way or the other impacted on me the value of linguistics, Prof M.S. Agbo (HOD), and all my esteemed lecturers: Dr. J. O. Onu, Dr. (Mrs.) Ideh Amaka, Dr. (Mrs.) P.O. Solomon-Etefia, Dr. O. O. Evbuomwan,, Late Dr. W. Aigbedo, Mr. Ajala, Dr. P. Usenbo, Mr. Odion James, Prof.(Mrs.) E. M. Omoregbe Dr. E. O. Ikoyo-Eweto, Dr. (Mrs.) I. N. George-Essien, Mr. G.O. Agharuwa, Dr (Mrs.) O. R. Osewa, and Mr. A. Evbayiro, You are all profoundly appreciated.

My immense gratitude also goes to my friends that supported me throughout my stay in this great university, Success Obazee, Imafidon Joshua, Destiny Omoruyi, Ediae Eghosa Success, Tessy and Okonoboh Elizabeth and to those that are not mentioned here do not think you are forgotten, you are all forever in my heart.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Approval Page-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Plagiarism Certification-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Dedication-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v
Acknowledgement-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	vi
Table of Contents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	vii
Abstract-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.1 Edo Language and Its Speakers-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1.2 Purpose of the Study-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1.3 Statement of the Problem -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.3.1 Aim and Objectives -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.3.2 Research Questions -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1.3.3 Scope of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1.3.4 Methodology -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1.3.5 Significance of the Study-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
.2.1 Conceptual Review -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
2.1.1 Language-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
2.1.2 Stories-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
2.1.3 Language Documentation-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
2.1.4 Language Preservation-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
2.2 Previous Studies-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
2.3 Concern of Present Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20

CHAPTER THREE: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.0 Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
3.1 Ethnography of Communication (Speaking Model)-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
3.2 Application of the Theory -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
3.3 Relevance/Justification of the Theory -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
--------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

4.1 Oloi Iden (Iden ne Okpokhuo)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
4.2 Ovia-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
4.3 Erinmwide-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
4.4 Oloi Idia-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
4.5 Emotan-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
5.1 Summary of the Study-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
5.2 Findings-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
5.3 Conclusion-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
5.4 Recommendations-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
REFERENCES-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the place of storytelling in Edo language documentation and preservation by assessing the significance of these storytellings in the language, examining the role of these stories in the maintenance and revitalization of the language in contemporary society, and to explore the influence of modern technologies and media platforms on the practice of storytelling and language documentation in the language. The research relied on data gotten from primary source. Interviews and storytelling sessions were conducted with elders, storytellers, and community members in Edo-speaking areas in Benin City, specifically around Ovia North-East Local Government Area. The stories were first written in Edo before been translated to English. The theoretical framework used for the analysis of this research was the Ethnography of Communication (SPEAKING MODEL) by Hymes (1964). The findings revealed that storytelling plays a significant role in documenting the Edo language. Through oral traditions, stories serve as a repository for linguistic and cultural knowledge, preserving key expressions, idioms, and customs. It allows the language to be passed down from one generation to the next, ensuring its continuity. Storytelling also contributes to the maintenance and revitalization of the Edo language in contemporary society. It helps keep the language alive by providing an engaging way to learn and practice it, especially in a time when modern languages and technologies are often prioritized.

