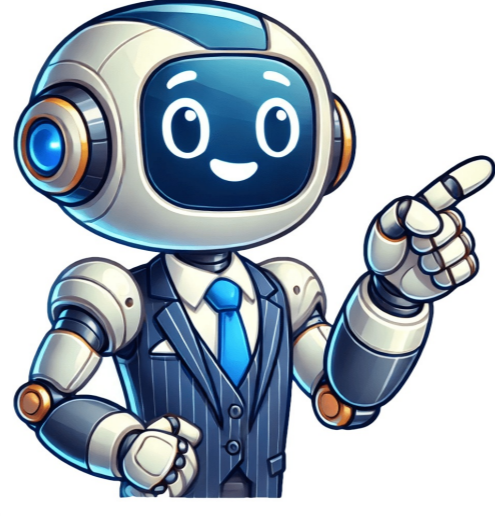


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## History of kanuri oral literature

The Kanuri language holds immense cultural significance, serving as a vital link to the identity and heritage of its speakers in northeastern Nigeria and beyond. As one of Africa's oldest languages, it encompasses rich traditions, beliefs, and historical narratives that transcend its vocabulary. However, its survival faces daunting challenges, necessitating concerted efforts for preservation and revitalization. Growing socio-economic pressures and modern influences have led to a decline in the language's usage among younger generations, jeopardizing not only the language itself but also the customs and traditions tied to it. To mitigate this decline, understanding the current landscape is crucial, informing strategies that ensure the Kanuri language continues to thrive. Despite facing numerous challenges, the Kanuri language remains a vital part of the rich literary heritage of northeastern Nigeria. Historically, the language has been impacted by colonialism, leading to a decline in its use in formal settings and the rise of dominant languages like English and French. Today, preserving the Kanuri language is crucial for maintaining cultural identity and heritage, as it plays a central role in community life, traditions, and practices. The language's importance extends beyond communication, serving as a means of expressing identity, preserving history, and promoting social cohesion within the Kanuri community. As globalization continues to shape cultural practices, the preservation of the Kanuri language is vital for maintaining its unique identity and heritage. Kanuri Language Faces Severe Threat Due to Decline in Native Speakers The Kanuri language is at risk of disappearing due to the significant decline in fluent speakers, primarily caused by the shift towards more dominant languages like Hausa and English. The use of these languages in education, government, and commerce has led to a decrease in Kanuri usage at home and in community settings. Globalization's impact on cultures worldwide affects the Kanuri culture as well. The spread of tech, media, and cultural exchanges has led to local languages and customs being overshadowed by global influences. Digital platforms, social media, and international entertainment have caused a homogenization of culture, making dominant languages and cultures more accessible than indigenous ones. As global culture seeps into local contexts, Kanuri speakers, especially youth, may be drawn to global trends prioritizing English or other dominant languages, leading to a loss of interest in learning and preserving their native language. Moreover, the portrayal of Kanuri culture in media often lacks authenticity and depth, undermining cultural pride essential for language preservation. Globalization has introduced new cultural practices that clash with traditional values, creating tensions within communities as younger generations grapple with their identities. This cultural dissonance can further alienate individuals from their heritage, making it challenging to foster a sense of belonging and commitment to preserving the Kanuri language and culture. Despite these challenges, the resilience of the Kanuri people in revitalizing their language and culture is essential. Communities are working together to find solutions promoting the use of the Kanuri language while navigating modern life. Integrating Kanuri Language into Educational Systems for Preservation The integration of the Kanuri language into formal and informal educational systems is vital for its preservation. By incorporating it into school curricula, teacher training programs, creation of educational materials, and implementing language immersion programs, we can foster a deeper appreciation for the linguistic heritage among children and young adults. The revitalization of the Kanuri language involves making it easier for both native speakers and newcomers to engage with its culture. Effective community involvement is crucial in this process as it fosters a sense of ownership and pride among community members. This can be achieved through various strategies such as organizing cultural festivals, establishing language clubs, involving elders, and collaborating with NGOs. These initiatives not only promote the usage of Kanuri but also reinforce its cultural significance. By creating spaces where the language is spoken and celebrated, community members are more likely to embrace and pass on their linguistic heritage. The key to successful implementation lies in collaborative efforts among various stakeholders including government bodies, educational institutions, non-profits, and community organizations. A comprehensive approach that pools resources and expertise can create a robust framework for revitalizing the Kanuri language and culture. Each stakeholder has a crucial role to play: governments should implement policies supporting language education, educational institutions should develop curricula for teachers in Kanuri, NGOs should provide funding and resources, and community organizations should facilitate events and promote the language at the grassroots level. The Kanuri people can ensure that their language and culture are not only preserved but also celebrated, allowing future generations to connect with their heritage. The author of this study aims to develop a method for isolating recurrent narrative elements for inter-lingual and inter-cultural comparative research. This approach draws on methodologies from folklore, cultural anthropology, and literary studies, and applies them to Africanistics. Special emphasis is placed on the original linguistic manifestation of the texts, which determines form and content. The study is based on 32 selected folk tales passed down among the Kanuri in north-east Nigeria and the bordering Lake Chad region, featuring heroic characters like the enfant terrible and the witch hunter. Das Werk von Thomas Geider stellt sich als ein bedeutendes Dokument dar, sowohl in seiner Darstellung als auch in seinem wissenschaftlichen Wert. Es ist das Ergebnis einer umfassenden Motivrecherche in der Kanuri-Erzähltradition, kombiniert mit einer textvergleichenden Methode für die Afrikanistik. Ein besonderer Vorteil dieses Projekts liegt in seiner Fähigkeit, eine Vielzahl von Disziplinen zusammenzubringen, um ein tiefgreifendes Verständnis afrikanischer Erzähltechniken zu ermöglichen. Der Appendix bietet einen nützlichen Überblick über die Motive und ihre entsprechenden Nummern, was für den Vergleich zwischen verschiedenen Regionen von großem Wert ist. Nebenbei wird Thomas Geider's Arbeit auch durch positive Bewertungen von Wissenschaftlern wie Uta Reuster-Jahn, Stanislaw Pilaszewicz und Daniela Waldburger hervorgehoben, die sie als "ein reales Erreichen" bezeichnen und für ihre hohe Inspirationskraft priesen.

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