

MULTILINGUALISM ON MAMBILLA PLATEAU: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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Mambilla plateau is situated south of Taraba state, north-eastern Nigeria. As an isolated mountainous area, minority languages can easily thrive, thus the multilingual setting is still viable. However, socioeconomic prestige and other inherent advantages have made Fulfulde a lingua franca, whereas the wind of globalization seems to be imposing Hausa and English on the majority of the inhabitants, making most people on the plateau to be competent multi-linguals. Notwithstanding however, the notion and basis of the linguistic situation and the prospects of multilingualism is yet to be studied. This paper will focus on multilingualism in this area thereby highlighting factors responsible for this situation and the problems therein.