

AFROLINGUALS

M A G A Z I N E

MAY - JUNE 2025



**Afrolinguals
Magazine**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Nigerian Languages
Data & Sci-Tech Conference**

**The Deep Learning Indaba
2025 in Rwanda**

LEARNING CORNER

**How Africans Language
Professionals Can Thrive
In The Age of AI**



**TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION IN AFRICA'S
LANGUAGE SERVICE INDUSTRY**

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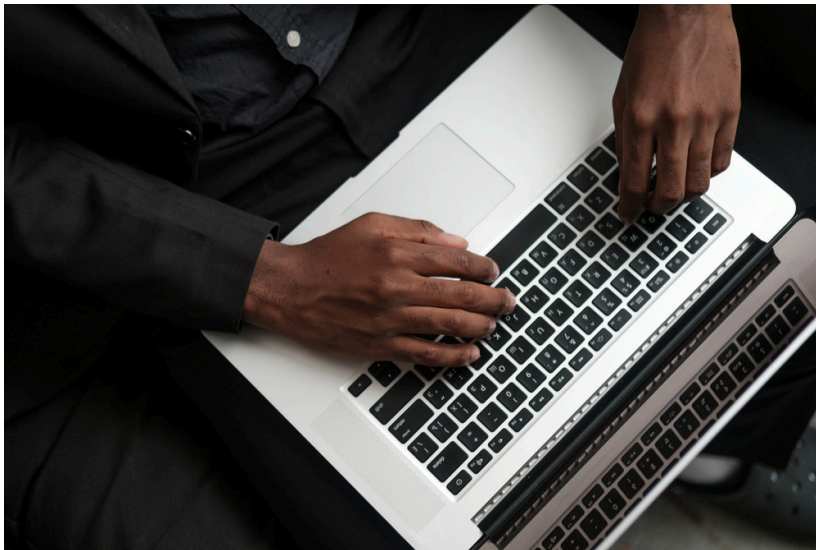
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EDITORIAL FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK

This third edition of Afrolinguals Magazine is not just a chronicle of progress—it's a manifesto for a linguistic reawakening. As global demand for African language services surges, technology is no longer a luxury; it's the lifeline preserving our heritage and propelling our voices onto the world stage.

From Lagos to Kigali, innovators are refusing to let colonial legacies dictate our linguistic destiny. Startups like Vambo AI and Yoruba GPT are redefining what it means to "speak" an African language in the digital age. Yoruba GPT, for instance, transcends translation—it's a cultural archivist, decoding proverbs (òwe) and tonal nuances with AI precision.

Meanwhile, community-driven tools like Termlog are crowdsourcing terminology to standardize Hausa, Igbo, and Yorùbá for STEM education. These aren't just tools; they're acts of resistance against erasure.

The Human-Machine Symbiosis

The rise of AI sparks valid anxiety. A recent survey reveals 75% of translators fear income loss to automation. Yet, this edition's Learning Corner dismantles the doom narrative: African linguists are pivoting from competitors to curators of AI. They're mastering hybrid roles—post-editing machine outputs, localizing content for cultural resonance, and transcreating narratives where algorithms falter. As Nigerian broadcaster TVC deploys AI anchors in five local languages, the message is clear: Technology amplifies, but human insight humanizes.

Preservation as Protest

Roseline Mballa's column Safeguarding Africa's Linguistic Heritage strikes at the heart of our mission. Languages like Kòlò and It on aren't fading due to inevitability—they're casualties of digital exclusion. Grassroots initiatives, however, are turning smartphones into weapons of preservation. Projects like NkulBeti leverage OpenAI's Whisper for speech recognition, while Mozilla Common Voice crowdsources datasets for marginalized tongues. This is more than archiving; it's reclaiming sovereignty over our stories.

The Unfinished Revolution

Yet, barriers persist. Scattered internet access, scarce funding, and a shortage of linguists stall progress. As AFLC 2025 emphasized, bridging Africa's digital divide demands coalitions—governments, tech giants like Google (now supporting 15 African languages), and local communities. The upcoming Nigerian Languages Data & Sci-Tech Conference and Deep Learning Indaba are critical battlegrounds for this alliance.

Our Call to Action

To every reader: Your role in this renaissance is tangible. Support startups like **Lelapa AI** building NLP tools for low-resource languages. Contribute to **Masakhane's** decentralized translation efforts. Advocate for policies embedding indigenous languages in education and tech interfaces. And to linguists: Specialize fiercely. Master rare language pairs. Let cultural nuance be your irreplaceable edge.

As the Yorùbá proverb in our Learning Corner reminds us: "*Ọmọdé gbón, àgbà gbón, la fi dá ilẹ̀ lẹ̀*"—"The child's wisdom and the elder's wisdom built the city." In merging ancestral knowledge with algorithmic might, we're not just servicing languages—we're rebuilding civilizations.

Welcome to the revolution

Christian Elongue, CEO of Afrolinguals



EVENTS RECAP

African Languages in the Digital Age: Reflections on AFLC 2025

By Ady Coulibaly, Operations Manager, Bolingo Consult [African Languages Conference](#), a flagship event dedicated to the promotion and preservation of African languages, and the advancement of language and digital rights, was held during the African Languages Week (February 21 to 28, 2025) under the theme "Harnessing African Languages for Digital Transformation and Social Justice". This annual gathering continues to play a crucial role in shaping policies and discussions on language access and inclusion in Africa.

A Platform for African Languages and Digital Rights

At AFLC 2025, the Directors of the African Languages Conference Inc., **Ady Namaran Coulibaly**, **Avishta Seeras**, and **Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah**, emphasized the urgent need to bridge the digital gap for African languages. The 2025 edition of the conference featured 38 sessions over 7 days, including four keynote addresses, totaling 36 hours of discussions with contributions from language professionals, advocates, researchers, scholars, linguists, and technology experts. African languages spoken during the sessions included Yoruba, Twi, Hausa, Ikwere, Obolo, Igala, Igbo, Tyap, Fulfulde/Pulaar, isiXhosa, Kóló, Anaañ, Hyam, and South African Sign Language (SASL).

An Inclusive Hybrid Event Bridging Africa and the World

The entire conference was live streamed on Zoom, ensuring global accessibility and inclusivity. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at UNIPORT, led by Dr. Ebitare Obikudo, played a pivotal role in the success of the onsite event. Their dedication and seamless coordination ensured a memorable and impactful experience for all attendees. Moderated by **Dr. Ebitare Obikudo** and Dr. Jones Ayuwo, both from the UNIPORT, the onsite event welcomed over 300 attendees, including representatives from universities across Nigeria. The Vice Chancellor of UNIPORT, Professor **Owunari Georgewill**, delivered an inspiring address on the critical role of African languages in preserving cultural heritage and ensuring language diversity for future generations.

Keynote Addresses: Thought Leaders Shaping the Future of African Languages

AFLC 2025 featured four powerful keynote addresses, delivered by renowned experts in linguistics, technology, and digital inclusion:

- UNIPORT Keynote Address by Professor **Roseline Alerechi** – *Indigenizing the Digital Space in Promoting African Languages for Social Justice*.

- ACALAN Keynote Address by Dr. Lang Fafa Dampha – African Languages as a Factor of Social Transformation and Justice.
- VIP Keynote Panel Discussion – Digital Inclusion in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities, featuring:
 - Simon Charwey – Globally renowned type and graphic designer
 - Diyi Yang – Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University
 - Mingfei Lau – Linguist, Google
 - Emre Varol – CEO, Africa to Silicon Valley (A2SV)
- Bolingo Consult Keynote Panel Discussion– Leveraging Language Skills for a Professional Career, featuring the team at Bolingo Consult:
 - Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah – Growth Manager
 - Ady Namaran Coulibaly – Quality and Compliance Manager
 - Mary Nanafi Mawuena – Operations Manager
 - Abdikadir Hassan – Somali Language Professional

These keynote addresses sparked crucial discussions on how African languages can be integrated into digital spaces, leveraged for professional opportunities, and preserved for future generations.

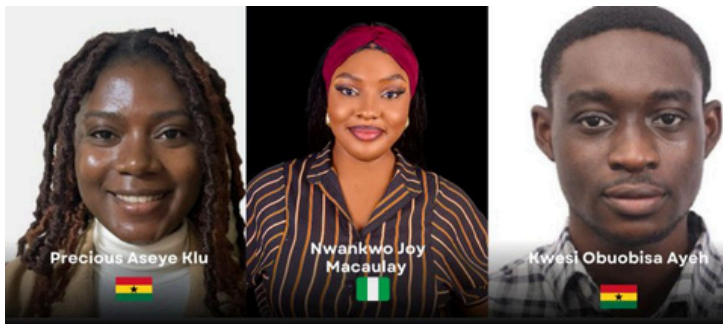
A Community Effort: AFLC Team, Partners, and Sponsors
The success of AFLC 2025 was driven by the dedication and hard work of the AFLC team, including Directors Avishta Seeras and Ady Namaran Coulibaly, AFLC Programs and Outreach Coordinator Umasoye Franca Igwe, and Assistant Event Coordinator Lucy Iwuala. Their commitment ensured a seamless and impactful event. AFLC 2025 was further strengthened by its esteemed partners and sponsors, who play a vital role in advancing African languages through research, education, and technological innovation:

- [University of Port Harcourt \(UNIPORT\)](#) – A prestigious Nigerian university.
- [African Academy of Languages \(ACALAN, African Union\)](#) – dedicated to fostering regional integration and sustainable development through African languages.
- [Boling Consult](#) – pioneering African language accessibility.
- [SILICON at Stanford University](#) – an initiative accelerating the digital inclusion of disadvantaged languages through AI development, OCR algorithms, and font and keyboard design.
- [Globalization Partners International \(GPI\)](#) – A leader in localization and global communication, blending AI-driven tools with human expertise.
- [Gemstones](#) – A groundbreaking language-learning app revolutionizing the way African languages are taught through AI and native speaker experiences.

These organizations have been instrumental in promoting language accessibility, research, and policy development, further strengthening AFLC's mission to bridge the digital divide for African languages. Their contributions have enabled AFLC to expand its reach, develop sustainable initiatives, and continue to push for a future where African languages are fully integrated into society and digital spaces.

Participants are encouraged to not only refine their technical and professional skills but also to actively contribute to the preservation, growth, and visibility of African languages in global spaces. As the 2025 progresses, their work continues to inspire language advocates, policymakers, and communities, reaffirming ALCA's commitment to empowering the next generation of African language leaders.

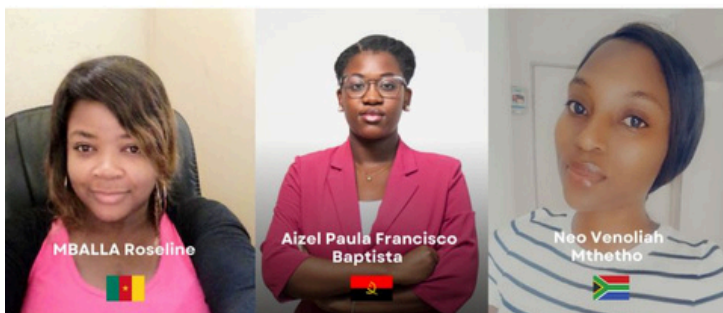
ALCA Mentorship Program 2025: Empowering African Language Champions



MEET THE MENTEES! 🎧



ALCA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2025
COHORT 1



The Association of Language Companies in Africa (ALCA) has launched its 2025 Mentorship Program, bringing together a diverse group of six (06) emerging and established professionals passionate about African languages. This initiative aims to strengthen participants' skills in language services, advocacy, technology integration, and business development, while fostering collaboration across the continent.

Weekly and monthly objectives encourage participants to work on real-world projects such as language documentation, localisation strategies, translation tools, and community-based language promotion campaigns.

From capacity-building workshops to personalised feedback sessions, the mentorship experience is designed to create lasting impact.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE NIGERIAN LANGUAGES DATA & SCI-TECH CONFERENCE



Start date: Aug 18, 2025

End date: Aug 22, 2025

Location: Virtual

The Nigerian Languages, Data and Science Technology Conference (NLDSTC) serves as a platform for stakeholders to come together and address these pressing issues. Through collaborative discussions, workshops, and presentations, participants explore strategies for promoting linguistic diversity in the digital age. From language revitalization efforts to advocacy for language rights, the conference provides a space for innovation and collaboration.

The Association of Language Companies in Africa (ALCA) is proud to host the [ALCA Annual Conference 2025](#), a leading industry event dedicated to elevating Africa's voice in the global language services arena.

This year's theme, "Navigating the Global Market: Africa's Role in the Language Services Industry," underscores the continent's growing influence in localization, translation, and interpretation. The two-day onsite event brings together a diverse community of language service providers, international clients, technology innovators, policymakers, and educators for high-impact dialogue, collaboration, and learning. To stay informed about upcoming editions, program details, and registration, visit the [ALCA official website](#).

ALCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025



THE DEEP LEARNING INDABA

DEEP LEARNING INDABA 2025 IN RWANDA

The Deep Learning Indaba will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 17-22 August 2025

This annual gathering unites the African machine learning and AI community, fostering collaboration and innovation. Since 2017, our mission has been to empower African AI and ensure that Africans play a leading role in shaping the future of AI advancements. It will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from August 17 to 22, 2025.

ALC 23RD ANNUAL SUMMIT | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



ALC's 23rd Annual Summit brings together language professionals to share knowledge, network, and advance the industry. This three-day conference is a once-a-year opportunity for attendees to gain experience and strengthen their business through presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

Over 200+ Language Service Company decision-makers are expected to attend the ALC 23rd Annual Summit in New Orleans, Louisiana. Do not miss this opportunity to network, share knowledge, and discuss all facets of our amazing industry.

ELIA NETWORKING DAYS

Start date: Sep 22, 2025

End date: Sep 23, 2025

Location: Budapest, Hungria

Networking Days is the perfect opportunity for language industry professionals to collaborate, discuss key topics, and network with their peers. Don't miss this unmissable event and connect with your language industry peers! Registration areopened.

Venue: [Danubius Hotel Helia](#)



ATA 66 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



[Join](#) dedicated translators and interpreters come from all over the world to share their unique experiences while building relationships in a supportive and generous community. They come to invest in themselves and their future as professional language services providers.

THRIVE – ATC UNCONFERENCE



THRIVE 2025 will connect you with industry peers and give you the tools and confidence to manage a business underpinned by solid financial, technological and commercial foundations – ready for whatever comes next. Join the ATC, business experts, and language services industry peers for two days of tight-knit networking and learning on 22-23 October 2025 in Manchester for THRIVE 2025 – ATC Unconference and ATC Language Industry Awards celebrations!

NEWS

FOR MORE NEWS, VISIT [KABODGROUP.COM](https://www.kabodgroup.com)

Nigerian broadcaster introduces AI News Anchor



TVC News has become the first Nigerian broadcaster to introduce artificial intelligence (AI) news anchors that deliver bulletins in five major local languages. While the AI news anchors are built to deliver news in five major languages, English, Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, and Pidgin, the company said its integration would enhance quick news delivery and broaden its digital footprint. [Discover more](#)

Why your reputation as a freelance translator matters more than money?



Money is important. However, it is secondary. Wisdom creates sustainable wealth. Discover why in [this real-lifestory](#) of Mr. Luke Liebiez, Manager of the Translation Office (Transbureau) of the University of Ghana

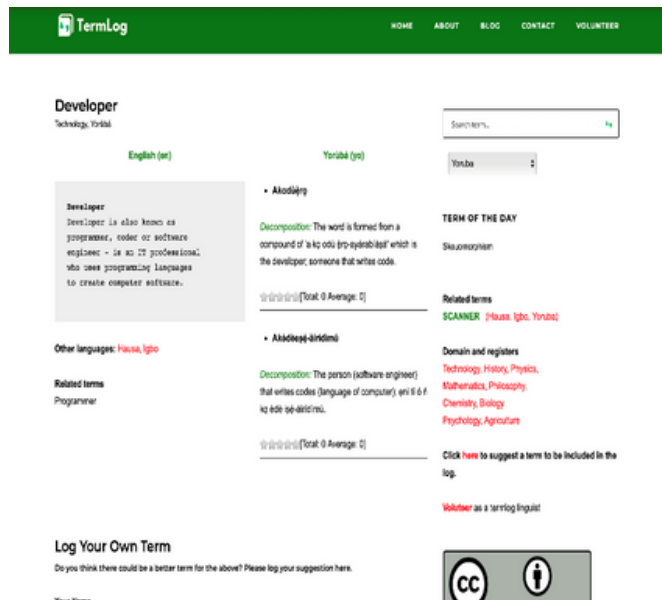
Navigating the Conflict Between Volume and Value in Interpretation Services



LSPs, competing for contracts, slash prices to win bids. For example, a report by Nimdzi Insights found that [43% of LSPs lowered rates in the past two years](#) to retain clients, even as demand for interpretation services grew by 18%. The problem? Cutting corners on quality has consequences. Read more [here](#)

SPOTLIGHT OF LANGUAGE TECH SOLUTIONS

Termlog



Termlog is a pioneering, community-driven terminology repository designed to foster digital inclusion and empower native speakers. Its core mission is to pave the way for the standardisation of Nigeria's major languages: Hausa, Igbo, and Yorùbá in an increasingly digital world. By leveraging neologisms and crowd-sourced expertise, TermLog serves as a dynamic, ever-evolving database that collects, verifies, and translates scientific, technical, and specialized terms across various domains into indigenous languages, all while preserving contextual and cultural accuracy.

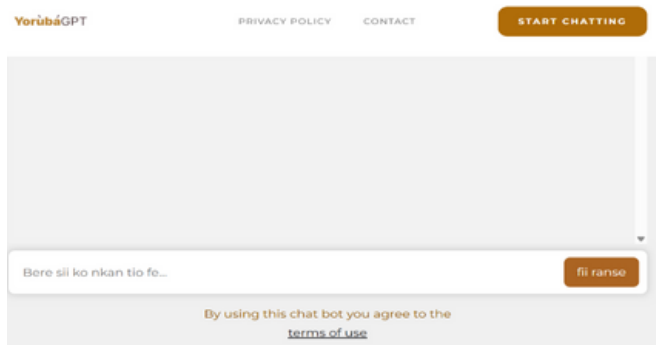
TermLog supports educators in localising STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) materials, ensuring improved comprehension for students in both rural and urban schools.

For linguists, researchers, and language enthusiasts, TermLog is an invaluable resource for language preservation, linguistic research, and computational linguistics.

App developers and AI innovators can seamlessly integrate Nigerian languages into digital products from voice assistants and chatbots to translation APIs. TermLog's verified terminology ensures culturally relevant and linguistically precise implementations, enhancing user experiences for millions of native speakers.

Writers, translators, and media professionals can also benefit from TermLog's growing database, enabling them to produce accurate and culturally resonant translations.

Yoruba GPT: A Digital Bridge to Culture and Language



Yoruba GPT is a specialized AI chatbot designed to understand and communicate in the Yorùbá language. It was created by the company Awarri, co-founded by Silas Adekunle and Eniola Edun. This platform goes beyond simple translation, acting as an expert in Yorùbá culture, history, and traditions. This allows it to provide deep cultural insights, explain the meanings of proverbs (òwe), and clarify grammar and the tonal nature of the language.

The platform is designed for a diverse audience, including native speakers, language learners, and the global Yorùbá diaspora. For native speakers, it offers a modern way to engage with their language. For learners, it serves as a valuable practice partner. And for the diaspora, it provides a means to reconnect with their roots.

Vambo AI

Vambo AI, founded by Chido Dzinotiwei and Isheanesu Misi, is a cutting-edge language technology company specializing in multilingual generative AI solutions for translation, transcription, content creation, and localization. The company is dedicated to delivering a rich cultural experience that enhances the dynamics of language learning, fostering confidence and deepening the understanding of students' chosen linguistic heritage.

Website: <https://www.vambo.ai/>



SAFEGUARDING AFRICA'S LINGUISTIC HERITAGE IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL ERA

By Roseline MBALLA

Africa is home to over 2,000 languages, yet many are on the verge of extinction due to globalization, urbanization, and linguistic imperialism. Indigenous languages like Kòlò and Itón face the risk of disappearance, mainly because of limited documentation and decreasing intergenerational transmission. This article highlights efforts to digitally preserve these languages using speech technologies, collaborative tools, and educational platforms.

The role and importance of technology in language digital documentation and preservation

Digital documentation enables wider access and long-term preservation of languages. It serves as a foundation for research, education, and technology development. Tools such as mobile apps, audio and video recording software, cloud storage, AI-based transcription, and social media platforms enable language communities to record and share their languages. Initiatives like digital dictionaries' development, interactive language learning platforms, and virtual archives make indigenous languages more accessible. In the context of Itón and Kòlò, community-driven projects using smartphones and open-source software have begun collecting oral histories, lexicons, and grammar rules. These digital efforts foster intergenerational transmission, allowing younger generations to reconnect with their heritage.

Challenges and collaborative communities

Despite technological advancements, challenges remain. The scarcity of trained linguists, limited funding, poor internet infrastructure, and low digital literacy hinder progress. Furthermore, some communities lack awareness of the importance of language preservation. To address this, partnerships between academia, tech innovators, governments, and grassroots organizations are vital. In Cameroon, collaboration with local institutions, including universities and cultural centers, has encouraged community participation in digital projects.

The revitalization efforts also involve youth through language clubs, social media campaigns, and storytelling apps. Local ownership and visibility empower communities to sustain their languages using culturally relevant methods. In other words, capacity-building workshops and mentorship programs empower locals to take ownership of their language documentation initiatives.

Leveraging technology: case of whisper and glossaries

Tools like OpenAI's Whisper model are being tested to develop basic speech recognition. For Kòlò and Itón, new digital tools are being developed. One such initiative is 'Nkul Beti', a forthcoming set of glossaries dedicated to these languages and practical to support language learners, translators and cultural advocates by providing accessible and accurate terminology in digital format.

Conclusion and further directions

For a sustainable impact, efforts must focus on integrating indigenous languages into national education systems and digital ecosystems. This includes creating open-access resources, embedding indigenous languages in software interfaces, and encouraging content creation in these languages. Policies that support linguistic diversity and innovation will be essential. The digital preservation of Itón and Kòlò serves as a testament to what is possible when technology meets cultural commitment. As Africa navigates its digital transformation, empowering communities to document and revitalize their languages is not only a cultural necessity but also a step toward an inclusive development.

22 INITIATIVES AND SOLUTIONS THAT INCREASED REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES IN TECH

By Dachiny Ewekengha, Localization Specialist

The technological landscape for African languages is rapidly evolving, thanks to a collective effort to minimize the digital gap and ensure that these languages have a fair place in the digital world. Long neglected, African languages are now at the heart of many innovative projects and initiatives in areas such as machine translation, speech recognition, digital preservation, and access to education.

This wave of activity is responding to significant challenges, such as data scarcity and digital exclusion, paving the way for a more inclusive technological future for the continent.

In this 3rd edition of Afrolinguals, we are keen to highlight the various initiatives and technological tools that specifically address the needs of a continent in constant evolution and deeply seeking better representation of its rich linguistic and cultural diversity.

Pioneering AI/ML Research & Development on the Continent

The heart of this technological advance lies in research and development in AI and machine learning (ML). Recent years have seen the emergence of numerous projects aimed at creating basic models and tools for African languages. Here are some of them:

Masakhane: This pan-African NLT project, which is community-driven, is dedicated to machine translation of African languages. It uses a decentralized research approach to address data scarcity and underrepresentation. It involves researchers from several African countries.



SERENGETI: Developed in Canada with an Africa-focused approach, SERENGETI is a massive multilingual language model that covers 517 African languages and dialects, enabling crucial cross-lingual transfer.

Lesan AI: A Berlin-based AI start-up, Lesan AI is focused on developing translation tools specifically for Ethiopian and Eritrean languages.



Lelapa AI: A pioneering innovator in African language AI, Lelapa AI develops cutting-edge natural language processing (NLP) tools for African contexts, known for creating smaller, efficient AI models for low-resource environments. Their for-profit tool, VulaVula, translates, transcribes, and analyzes languages like English, Afrikaans, Zulu, and Sesotho.



Jacaranda Health's UlizaLlama (AskLlama): This health tech firm launched the first Swahili-language LLM to improve maternal healthcare in East Africa, based on Meta's Llama 3. It enhances Jacaranda Health's SMS service for low-income pregnant women who speak Swahili by providing personalized answers to their questions.

Government & Institutional Initiatives

Governments and national institutions have a heavy responsibility in creating frameworks and regulations conducive to promoting the development and integration of African languages in digital spaces. The continent is brimming with numerous projects working toward this goal, such as:



SADiLaR (South African Centre for Digital Language Resources): This national center is supported by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) that develops tools and corpora and supports Human Language Technology (HLT) research. The DSTI is the government body responsible for driving socio-economic development through research and innovation.

Nigerian LLM Development: Awarri, a Lagos-based start-up is commissioned by the Nigerian government to develop the country's first government-backed large language model (LLM) to increase the representation of Nigerian languages in AI systems.

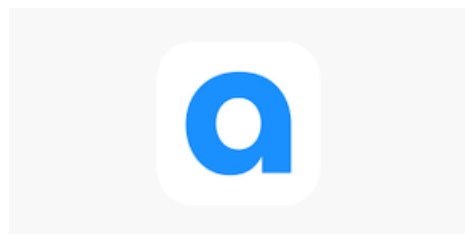
Mobile & Web Applications

Africans living on the continent and in the diaspora must redouble their efforts to better master their various local languages, as the preservation of cultural heritage relies on linguistic transmission. To address this issue, numerous applications and online platforms have been created with the aim of teaching and reteaching these languages, which are part of our African identity but are so poorly represented in the digital space. Here are a few examples:

Mandla: This app is developed by African college students. It focuses exclusively on a wide range of African languages like Yoruba, Igbo, Twi, Swahili, Amharic, Kinyarwanda, Zulu, Wolof, and more. It emphasizes cultural connection and has a community-focused approach.



Nkenne: This app is dedicated solely to African languages, offering courses in languages such as Igbo, Somali, Nigerian Pidgin, Yoruba, Swahili, Twi, Hausa, Zulu, Amharic, Wolof, Kinyarwanda, and Shona. It features lessons designed by educators, digital flashcards, skill-building exercises, as well as a community section.



Angula: This app focuses on Southern African languages, including isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Khoikhoi, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, and Xitsonga. It offers bite-sized lessons narrated by native speakers.

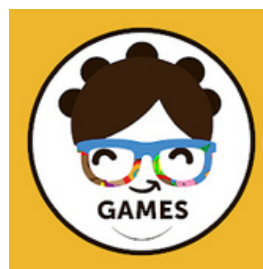
This app is available on both [Google Play](#) and [Apple Store](#).



Zivo: A free mobile app for Android that helps you learn African languages like Swahili, Zulu, Shona, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Tswana, Venda, Swati, Sepedi, Tsonga, Ndebele, Hausa, Igbo, and Oromo through speaking, reading, listening, and writing exercises.



Dialogue Africa: This platform aims to teach African languages and connect users to African culture. It offers lessons in Twi, Yoruba, Swahili, Ga, Igbo, and is expanding to include others, like Amharic, Hausa, Xhosa, and Kinyarwanda. It is crowdsourced and user-focused.



Genii Games: This app uniquely uses a gaming approach to teach various African languages through animated videos, suitable for both kids and adults.

Lulla: Providing offline learning for languages such as Bambara, Yoruba, and Igbo, Lulla also includes cultural context.



Vambo Academy: An online platform that aims to teach African languages and shares various aspects of African heritage, with a specialized and personalized teaching approach for diverse learners.

They also launched Vambo AI, a cutting-edge language technology company specializing in multilingual generative AI solutions for translation, transcription, content creation, and localization.



African Language Academy: This platform offers structured online courses with authentic and passionate African tutors for various languages, including Swahili, Yoruba, Kikuyu, Shona, Lunda, Nyanja, Tonga, and Bemba. In addition to the various apps and platforms clearly geared toward African languages, some general language learning apps, such as Mondly and Duolingo, are gradually adding certain African languages to their offerings.

Speech & Voice Technologies

Advances in voice and speech technologies are essential for enabling natural interaction with digital devices. From global giants such as Google, to African start-ups, such as Awarri, we are seeing the emergence of speech and voice solutions that respond to local realities and are gradually revolutionizing everyday life in Africa:



Mozilla Common Voice: A global crowdsourced voice dataset project that includes Swahili, Yoruba, and Hausa, used to train Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) models. This large-scale, open-source effort is creating crucial voice datasets for African languages, which are often lacking.



Google Africa Voice and Speech Tech: Google has significantly ramped up its efforts in including African languages, recognizing the immense potential for digital inclusion and economic growth through local language accessibility. This is not just about interpreting; it is about enabling millions of Africans to interact with technology in their native tongues, bridging digital divides, and fostering local innovation.

Google has added 15 African languages for voice search, talk-to-type on Gboards, and dictation in Google Translate.



Sunbird AI

Sunbird AI (Ugandan Low-resource Model): This project focuses on practical speech and translation technology for Ugandan languages, with real-world applications beyond research.



Intron's speech-to-text AI transcription: This system understands medical terminology beyond local accents, allowing doctors in Nigeria and Kenya to dictate patient records hands-free and in real time. It also supports customer service in indigenous languages, transcribes local court proceedings, and makes radio broadcasts more inclusive.



Spitch: This developer-first audio AI platform offers APIs and SDKs for local-language voice capabilities (speech-to-text and text-to-speech) for African languages, providing foundational voice AI infrastructure for other developers.



LangEasy: Powered by Awarri, LangEasy allows users to record audio samples by translating English sentences into Nigerian languages like Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, Pidgin, and Ibibio, enabling crowdsourcing of data for Awarri's LLM.

These various initiatives highlight a growing commitment to the development and integration of African languages in the digital landscape. This collective mobilization is essential to ensure the relevance and vitality of these languages, promote greater digital inclusion, and celebrate Africa's rich linguistic and cultural diversity in an increasingly interconnected world.

We invite you to discover and embrace these various tools and initiatives so that, ultimately, we will be able to tell the story of Africa in the different languages of African people.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER



Africa Computational Linguistics Summer School 2025

Dive into the world of language technology and experience the magic you can do with your language and linguistics knowledge with our immersive Africa Computational Linguistics Summer School(Africomplings).

Experience expert-led courses, workshops, ingatherings, coterie and talks with founders. Sessions have started and you can learn more about it here: <https://www.linguisticsisland.com/summer-school/about>

Language Revitalization Fellowship 2025

7000.org is seeking applicants for our 2025 Language Revitalization Cohort! As a part of the Language Revitalization Fellowship Program, you will work within your community to design and implement online language learning lessons using free language learning technology tools.



Meet together as a cohort, and learn about language revitalization tools, practices and strategies (e.g. recording audio, elicitation techniques, curriculum development tools, and more!). This fellowship is ideal for an independent, driven person who wants to use their passion for language and culture and learn about the fundamentals of project management, language revitalization, and language learning technology. Apply here before 24th August: <https://www.7000.org/work-with-us>

\$100,000 to Fund Language Technology Innovators

Each year, Imminent allocates \$100,000 to fund five original research projects that explore the most advanced frontiers in the world of language services, providing grants of \$20,000 each. Imminent expects the call to appeal to startupper, researchers, innovators, authors, university labs, organizations, and companies. A committee of leading experts will evaluate the proposals. Topics: Language economics – Language data – Machine learning algorithms for translation – Human-computer interaction – The neuroscience of language. Apply for the 2025 Grant here: <https://imminent.translated.com/apply-for-your-grants>

LEARNING CORNER

How African Language Professionals Can Thrive in the Age of AI

The language industry in Africa is undergoing rapid change, with AI-powered translation tools projected to handle up to 90% of all manual translation tasks worldwide by 2025. The market for real-time AI translation is expected to reach \$7.4 billion, causing understandable anxiety among professional linguists. A 2024 survey found that over 75% of translators anticipate a negative impact on their future income due to AI. However, this shift is not a "death sentence" for African language professionals; instead, it is an opportunity to adapt and increase their value. Here's how African linguists can stay relevant and succeed:

1. Specialize in High-Value Niches

While AI excels at bulk tasks, it struggles with content that requires deep context, nuance, or specialized knowledge. African linguists can secure their position by focusing on the following areas:

- **Complex domains:** Legal, medical, diplomatic, literary, and technical translations demand cultural sensitivity, regulatory compliance, and specialized vocabulary. Clients are willing to pay more for accuracy in these fields.
- **Localization:** This involves adapting content for local markets, which requires a deep understanding of cultural nuances, not just direct translation. For instance, KLS saw a 21% increase in client retention after localizing software into major African languages for NGOs.
- **Rare language pairs:** With more than 2,000 African languages, AI is limited by a scarcity of data sets. Specializing in under-resourced languages like Ewe or Kikongo can make a linguist indispensable, particularly for NGOs and governments.

2. Embrace Hybrid and Value-Added Services

As the industry evolves, new roles are emerging that combine human expertise with AI tools:

- **Post-editing of machine translation (PEMT):** The demand for PEMT is increasing as clients seek the speed of machine translation combined with human quality control, especially for sensitive projects.
- **Project management and QA:** Linguists can manage multilingual projects by integrating AI tools and human professionals to ensure scalable, high-quality delivery.

- **Transcreation and creative adaptation:** Marketing and storytelling projects depend on human creativity, voice, and emotion, which AI cannot replicate.

3. Continuously Update Skills

Staying relevant requires a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. Essential skills for the modern linguist include:

- **Technical Proficiency:** Master computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools and AI-assisted platforms to manage terminology and maintain consistency across large projects. Developing skills in PEMT is also crucial. Gaining foundational knowledge in programming, data analysis, and machine learning can help you work effectively with AI systems.
- **Human-Centric Skills:** AI lacks critical thinking and cultural understanding. Human linguists must be able to evaluate and improve AI-generated translations. They also provide invaluable cultural insights, ensuring translations convey the correct emotion and prevent cultural missteps. Communication, networking, and research skills are also vital for staying current and building professional relationships.
- **Specialized Knowledge:** Acquire cross-disciplinary knowledge in fields like law, medicine, or engineering to become an expert in those domains, allowing you to handle complex texts that go beyond what AI can provide.

4. Build Strategic Networks

Relationships are as important as skills in the African language industry.

- **Join professional associations:** platforms like the network of African languages translators and teachers (ALATT) and the Association of Language Companies in Africa (ALCA) offer access to job boards, training, and industry news.
- **Participate in tech initiatives:** Contribute to open-source projects like Indaba or Masakhane to help build African AI datasets and increase visibility.
- **Mentor the next generation:** Engage with language students to show them the diverse career paths available beyond traditional translation, ensuring the profession's future.

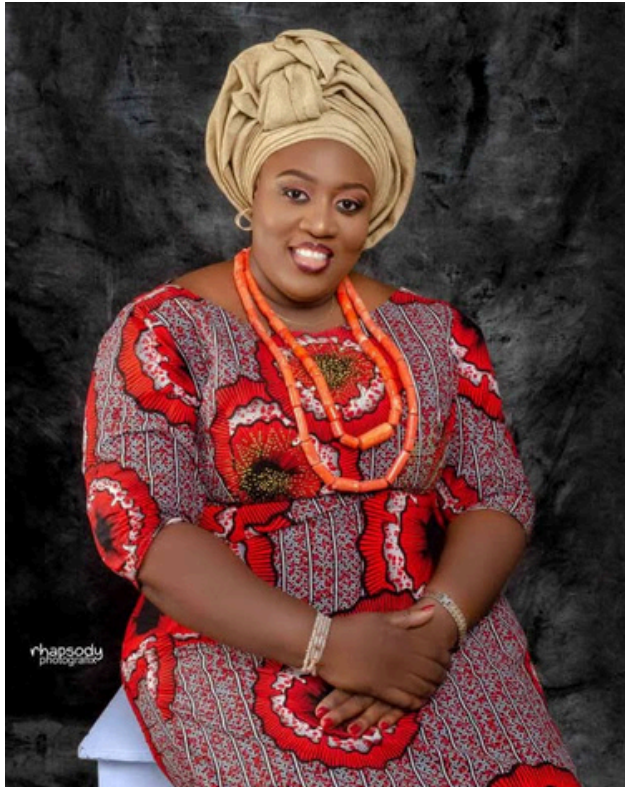
5. **Demonstrate Unique Value**

Go beyond basic translation to showcase the unique value you provide.

- **Uphold professional ethics:** Confidentiality, neutrality, and accuracy are paramount, especially in sensitive fields like law and medicine.
- **Provide cultural insights:** Offer advice to clients and mediate cross-cultural communication, which an algorithm cannot do.
- **Show your impact:** Quantify the value you bring to a project. For example, KLS co-produced a local language guide for South Africa that directly resulted in a 21% increase in customers.
As the Yoruba proverb says, "Ọmọdé gbọ́n, àgbà gbọ́n, lá fí dá Ifẹ̀" — "The child's wisdom and the elder's wisdom built the city". By weaving traditional expertise with new tools, African language professionals can ensure their industry remains relevant for generations to come.

ÀBÈBÍ: A QUIET FORCE WITH A LOUD HEART

By Dachiny Ewekengha, Localization Specialist



From the rolling hills of Ìpetu Ìjèsà to her busy workstation, ÀBÈBÍ paints the world in the vibrant colors of Yorùbá. With a melodious voice and precise pen, she has transformed language into a vehicle for culture, connection, and endless possibilities. But beyond her 143 certifications, her role as Secretary General and Registrar of the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI), and her work as events and training coordinator for Kabod Group (MATI), ÀBÈBÍ remains a humble woman.

ÀBÈBÍ grew up in a home where stories flowed freely: Baba Fagunwa's books, prayers echoing from the C&S church, and Yoruba hymns filled the air like incense. She speaks fondly of her parents, Elder Adegboyega and Pastor (Mrs.) Olushola, as well as her siblings Ìfèolúwapò, Ajibádé, and Olúwafèyísayò.

Today, she lives out her love story with Adébáyò, whom she affectionately calls Shuga, the "limited edition" Ìjèbú man. Together, they share the joys of everyday life with their beautiful children. Her family is her anchor, a circle of laughter, rituals, and love that transforms ordinary days into cinematic moments.

As a child, she dreamed of becoming a television news anchor, and fate, always playful, led her to that dream as a journalist for the Yorùbá-language channel of NTA.

However, even though life led her to work in human resources and at bank counters, her priorities have always remained the same: human relations, meaning, language, and caring for others.

Her routine is a tribute to her dedication: she wakes up to music, prepares breakfast, helps her children get ready for school, and ends her day with a plate of mọ́ímọ́i eléwé, Ìjèbú gaari, and cold water—unsweetened, just like she prefers her truths.

Although she holds many professional roles, what truly defines her is the way she makes room for others. Her desire to highlight Indigenous identity, celebrate heritage, and encourage flexibility and technological thinking in others is not about prestige. It is about conviction.

She believes in the sacredness of one's mother tongue. She believes in the teachings of teachers who saw potential in her. She believes in the power of prayers that come from the heart. And she believes it is important to remind herself and others that we are perfect just the way we are.

Her favorite motto, "Àfàìlà ojú!"—"Except the day doesn't break!"—is a testament to her faith, perseverance, and ability to bounce back, reminding us that luck favors those who are prepared. When others see a language expert, she hopes they also see the woman who sings while sweeping, who enjoys the solitude of her home, and who invents stories with her hands.

Her dream? To be remembered not only as an ambassador for the Yorùbá language, but also as someone who made the language a place where people feel at home. To her younger self, she would whisper: "ÀBÈBÍ, you are enough. Let your love for Yorùbá light your path." And to anyone stepping into the world of words: "Be adaptable, stay flexible, and let technology amplify your voice."

In ÀBÈBÍ world, beauty is not reserved for poetic verses: it can be found in peeling vegetables, folding laundry, and dancing in the kitchen while preparing meals. She invites us into her world, not only to admire it, but also to remind us that our ordinary lives are also works of art.

DISCOVERING MEMBERS OF THE MARKETPLACE OF AFRICAN TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS (MATI)



Daphne Chiamaka Nwafor

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English <> Nigerian Pidgin

Certified Igbo and Nigerian pidgin language service provider with 6 years of experience in delivering top-notch languages services like interpretation, translation, transcription, etc.



Sa'ad Nasir Bashir

English <> Hausa

Hausa translator and AI data annotator, passionate about inclusive technology. He works on multilingual NLP, ASR training, and ethical AI for underrepresented language



Blessing Uzuegbu

English <> Igbo

English <> Nigerian Pidgin

Blessing Uzuegbu is an expert Igbo translator and interpreter with over a decade of experience. An advocate for human and quality translations. A specialist in Life Science, linguistic validation and clinical trial.

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