

THE CHALLENGE OF SAVING TWO LANGUAGES IN CAMEROONIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE CASE OF THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

GONONDO Jean

PhD Scholar in the Institute of Educational Science
Zhejiang Normal University
CHINA

DJIRARO MANGUE Célestine Laure

Faculty of Law and Political Science
University of Ngaoundéré
CAMEROON

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to describe and challenge the ineffectiveness of using the two official languages in the Cameroonian higher educational system on the one hand; then to show the great need and importance of promoting both languages (English and French) on the other hand. This paper proposes some pragmatic remedial strategies and practical solutions to overcome the difficulties in implementing true individual and personal bilingualism in the Cameroonian higher educational system. Cameroon, as one of the few countries in the world where two languages are adopted as official languages- French and English are intimately related to the universities community's daily life. Even though according to the Cameroonian constitution, the public institutions are supposed to be bilingual, however with regards to its effectiveness in the Higher Education Institutions, the practice of these languages is limited and the dominance of the French language is very glaring. It has been researched and found out that personal bilingualism is ineffective because the majority of students and lecturers are officially monolingual and most of them have adopted the French language as their first language of communication. The creation of a language board and the institution of language competitions can serve as a means of enhancing personal bilingualism in students and lecturers in the higher educational institutions, hence, creating an impact in the entire country.

Keywords: Bilingualism, Higher Education, Languages Promotion, Society Development.