

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING MATERIALS FOR AFRICAN LANGUAGES

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Whether foreign learners seeking basic conversational skills or heritage learners aiming to reconnect with their cultural roots, language learners often prioritize practical communication over theoretical knowledge. This presentation proposes the development of teaching materials for African languages that emphasize communication. It argues that resources should be designed to enable meaningful engagement with the language in real-world contexts.

By showcasing tools such as the NCSSFL (National Council of State Supervisors for Languages) – ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) “Can-Do Statements,” the presentation will illustrate how teaching materials can be tailored to reflect the functions and purposes learners are likely to encounter in their daily lives. Key principles of designing communicative teaching materials will be discussed, including task-based learning, interactive activities, and the integration of authentic cultural contexts.

The presentation emphasizes the importance of aligning teaching resources with learners’ goals. This approach not only empowers students to achieve practical fluency and enhance their language proficiency but also fosters cultural understanding and language preservation, ensuring that African languages remain vibrant and relevant for future generations.