

language spoken in liberia

language spoken in liberia is a fascinating topic that reveals the rich cultural tapestry and historical influences found across this West African nation. From the official status of English to the diverse array of indigenous languages spoken in daily life, Liberia's linguistic landscape is shaped by centuries of migration, colonization, and intercultural exchange. This article explores the official and local languages of Liberia, their historical origins, and their role in society, education, and government. Readers will also discover how language affects communication, identity, and social interaction among Liberians. The article delves into language preservation efforts, the impact of globalization, and the importance of multilingualism in Liberian communities. Whether you are a researcher, traveler, or simply curious about Liberia's languages, this comprehensive guide provides valuable insights into the languages spoken in Liberia and their significance.

- Overview of Languages Spoken in Liberia
- The Official Language: English
- Indigenous Languages of Liberia
- Languages in Education and Government
- Language and Social Identity
- Preservation and Challenges Facing Liberian Languages
- Multilingualism and Language Use in Daily Life
- Language Evolution and Global Influences

Overview of Languages Spoken in Liberia

Languages spoken in Liberia reflect the country's diverse ethnic heritage and unique historical trajectory. Liberia is home to over 20 indigenous languages alongside English, the official language. These languages belong primarily to two major language families: the Mande and the Kru. While English is widely used in government, education, and urban centers, indigenous languages remain prevalent in rural areas and daily conversations among local communities. The interplay between official and native languages in Liberia highlights the nation's commitment to preserving its cultural roots while embracing modernity. Understanding the linguistic landscape of Liberia is essential for appreciating its social dynamics and cultural expressions.

The Official Language: English

Historical Origins of English in Liberia

English became the official language of Liberia as a direct result of the country's founding by freed African-American slaves in the early 19th century. The settlers, known as Americo-Liberians, established English as the language of administration, law, and education. This historical decision set Liberia apart from many other West African nations, which often adopted French or Portuguese as their official languages due to colonial rule.

Role of English in Modern Liberia

Today, English serves as the primary language of government, education, media, and commerce in Liberia. It acts as a lingua franca, bridging communication among various ethnic groups. In urban areas like Monrovia, English is commonly spoken and understood, while rural regions may use English primarily in formal settings. The widespread use of English facilitates access to international resources and opportunities, making it integral to Liberia's socio-economic development.

Indigenous Languages of Liberia

Major Indigenous Language Groups

Liberia's indigenous languages are divided into several groups, each representing distinct ethnic communities. The most prominent language families include:

- Mande languages (e.g., Mandingo, Loma, Vai)
- Kru languages (e.g., Bassa, Kru, Grebo)
- Mel languages (e.g., Kissi, Gola)

Each language family has multiple dialects and subgroups, reflecting the country's ethnic diversity. These languages are vital for cultural expression, traditional storytelling, and community cohesion.

Regional Distribution of Indigenous Languages

The Mande languages are most commonly spoken in northern and western Liberia, while Kru languages dominate the central and southeastern regions. Mel languages are found in smaller pockets, particularly in the northwest. This

geographic distribution influences local customs, traditions, and social networks.

Languages in Education and Government

Language Policy in Schools

English is the medium of instruction in Liberian schools, from primary to tertiary levels. While indigenous languages may be taught informally or used in early childhood education, the emphasis on English aims to prepare students for participation in national and global discourse. However, the dominance of English in education can create barriers for students whose first language is not English, leading to challenges in literacy and academic achievement.

Use of Language in Government and Legal Systems

All official government documents, legal proceedings, and parliamentary debates are conducted in English. This practice ensures uniformity and clarity in national administration but may limit accessibility for citizens more fluent in indigenous languages. Some efforts are underway to incorporate local languages in public communication and civic education initiatives.

Language and Social Identity

Language as a Marker of Ethnic Identity

In Liberia, language plays a significant role in shaping social identity and community belonging. Each ethnic group values its native language as a symbol of heritage, history, and pride. The ability to speak a particular indigenous language often signifies membership in a specific group and can influence social interactions, marriage, and political alliances.

Interethnic Communication and Multilingualism

With over 20 ethnic groups, interethnic communication necessitates multilingualism. Many Liberians are fluent in several languages, switching between English and indigenous tongues depending on context. This linguistic flexibility fosters mutual understanding and cooperation among diverse communities.

Preservation and Challenges Facing Liberian Languages

Efforts to Preserve Indigenous Languages

Recognizing the risk of language loss, several organizations and cultural groups in Liberia are working to document, teach, and promote indigenous languages. Literacy campaigns, community radio programs, and cultural festivals celebrate linguistic diversity and encourage younger generations to embrace their mother tongues.

Challenges to Language Preservation

Despite these efforts, indigenous languages face threats from urbanization, migration, and the dominance of English in formal domains. Limited resources for language education and documentation further exacerbate the risk of language extinction. Balancing modernization with cultural preservation remains a key challenge for Liberia.

Multilingualism and Language Use in Daily Life

Common Language Practices in Liberian Society

Multilingualism is a hallmark of daily life in Liberia. Most Liberians can communicate in English and at least one indigenous language. In marketplaces, community gatherings, and local ceremonies, people often alternate between languages to facilitate effective communication.

Pidgin English and Liberian English Variants

A unique form of Liberian English has evolved, incorporating elements from indigenous languages and local expressions. Pidgin English, known locally as "Liberian Kreyol," is widely spoken in informal contexts, especially among youth. It serves as a dynamic medium for storytelling, music, and popular culture.

Language Evolution and Global Influences

Impact of Globalization on Liberian Languages

Globalization has introduced new linguistic influences to Liberia, including loanwords from French, Arabic, and other languages. Exposure to international

media, migration, and technology has accelerated language change and adaptation. The evolution of Liberian English and increased bilingualism reflect the country's openness to global trends while retaining its unique linguistic heritage.

Future Trends in Language Use

As Liberia continues to develop, the linguistic landscape is likely to evolve further. Efforts to promote bilingual education, digital resources for indigenous languages, and cross-cultural exchanges may strengthen language preservation and foster greater inclusivity. The interplay between tradition and modernity will shape the future of languages spoken in Liberia.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about Language Spoken in Liberia

Q: What is the official language spoken in Liberia?

A: The official language spoken in Liberia is English, used in government, education, and formal communication.

Q: How many indigenous languages are spoken in Liberia?

A: Liberia is home to over 20 indigenous languages, representing various ethnic groups and language families.

Q: Which language family is most prominent among Liberia's indigenous languages?

A: The Mande and Kru language families are the most prominent, including languages such as Mandingo, Vai, Bassa, and Grebo.

Q: Is English widely spoken in rural areas of Liberia?

A: English is less commonly spoken in rural areas, where indigenous languages dominate daily interaction, but it is used in formal settings.

Q: What is Liberian Kreyol?

A: Liberian Kreyol, or Liberian Pidgin English, is an informal variant of English used widely in casual conversations and popular culture.

Q: Are indigenous languages taught in Liberian schools?

A: Indigenous languages may be taught informally or in early childhood education, but English remains the primary medium of instruction.

Q: What challenges do indigenous languages in Liberia face?

A: Indigenous languages face challenges such as limited resources for education, urbanization, migration, and the dominance of English.

Q: Why is multilingualism common in Liberia?

A: Multilingualism is common due to the country's ethnic diversity and the need for interethnic communication in daily life.

Q: How has globalization affected language use in Liberia?

A: Globalization has introduced new loanwords and increased exposure to international languages, influencing Liberian English and local language practices.

Q: What efforts are being made to preserve Liberian indigenous languages?

A: Efforts include literacy campaigns, cultural festivals, documentation initiatives, and community programs aimed at promoting and preserving indigenous languages.

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The Languages Spoken in Liberia: A Comprehensive Guide

Liberia, a West African nation with a rich history and diverse culture, boasts a fascinating linguistic landscape. Understanding the languages spoken in Liberia is key to appreciating its vibrant heritage and complex social fabric. This comprehensive guide delves into the official languages, major vernaculars, and the influence of English on Liberian society. We'll explore the historical context behind the current linguistic situation and provide you with a deeper understanding of this fascinating aspect of Liberian life.

The Official Language: English - A Legacy of Colonialism

While Liberia has a multitude of indigenous languages, English is the official language. This stems from Liberia's unique history as a nation founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century. These settlers, carrying with them the English language, established it as the language of administration, education, and commerce. Therefore, English dominates official government business, education systems, and media outlets. However, it's crucial to understand that this doesn't mean English is universally spoken or understood across the country.

English Proficiency and Variations:

It's important to note that the level of English proficiency varies significantly across Liberia. While urban areas generally see higher levels of fluency, rural populations often exhibit a greater preference for their native languages. Moreover, a unique Liberian English dialect has emerged, incorporating elements of both American English and the various local languages. This dialect adds a distinct flavour to Liberian communication.

Major Vernacular Languages: A Tapestry of Indigenous Tongues

Beyond English, Liberia is home to a diverse array of indigenous languages belonging to the Niger-Congo language family. These vernacular languages, often spoken within specific regions or ethnic groups, play a significant role in daily life and cultural expression. Estimating the exact number is challenging, due to ongoing linguistic research and dialect variations, but several major languages stand out.

Key Vernacular Languages and Their Regions:

Kpelle: One of the most widely spoken languages in Liberia, predominantly found in central Liberia.

Bassa: Another prominent language, spoken primarily in the coastal regions of Grand Bassa and River Cess counties.

Mano: Common in the northwestern part of Liberia, bordering Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Gio: Primarily spoken in the northeastern counties of Nimba and Bong.

Grebo: Spoken along the southeastern coast, near the border with Côte d'Ivoire.

These are just some of the most prominent languages. Many smaller languages and dialects also exist, often with limited documentation. The linguistic diversity reflects the rich ethnic tapestry of the nation.

The Interplay of English and Vernacular Languages: A Dynamic Linguistic Landscape

The relationship between English and the numerous vernacular languages in Liberia is complex and dynamic. While English holds official status and dominates formal settings, indigenous languages remain vital for everyday communication within communities. This often leads to code-switching, where individuals seamlessly blend English and their native language within a single conversation.

Code-Switching and Language Maintenance:

Code-switching isn't merely a casual phenomenon; it reflects the practical realities of a multilingual society. It helps bridge communication gaps between those with varying levels of English proficiency and serves as an important tool for maintaining cultural identity and community cohesion. The persistence of vernacular languages demonstrates their crucial role in social bonding and the transmission of cultural knowledge.

The Impact of Globalization and Language Change:

Globalization's influence on Liberia's linguistic landscape is undeniable. Increased exposure to international media, particularly through television and the internet, has led to greater contact with English and other languages. This exposure may lead to changes in the use and evolution of both English and the vernacular languages, a constant process of adaptation and transformation.

Conclusion: Embracing Linguistic Diversity in Liberia

Liberia's linguistic landscape is a captivating reflection of its multifaceted history and diverse population. While English serves as the official language, the vitality of numerous indigenous vernacular languages underscores the richness of Liberian culture. Understanding this intricate

interplay of languages is essential to appreciating the nation's dynamic social fabric and its ongoing cultural evolution. The continued use and preservation of these languages are crucial for maintaining cultural heritage and fostering a sense of community and identity.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is it necessary to learn English to live in Liberia? While not universally essential, English is highly beneficial for navigating formal settings, interacting with government institutions, and accessing many job opportunities.
2. How many languages are spoken in Liberia in total? The exact number is difficult to determine definitively due to the existence of numerous dialects and variations within language families. However, there are dozens of distinct languages and many more dialects.
3. Are there efforts to preserve the vernacular languages of Liberia? Yes, there are ongoing efforts by various organizations and institutions to document, preserve, and promote the use of Liberia's indigenous languages.
4. What are the main challenges facing language preservation in Liberia? The dominance of English, limited resources for language education and documentation, and urbanization are among the key challenges.
5. Where can I find resources to learn more about Liberian languages? You can explore resources from universities with linguistics programs specializing in West African languages, along with online databases and language learning platforms focused on less-common languages.

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Languages Lynell Marchese, Lynell Zogbo, 1986

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language spoken in liberia: Language and Development in Africa Ekkehard Wolff, 2016-05-26 This volume explores the central role of language across all aspects of public and private life in Africa.

language spoken in liberia: Liberia: America's Footprint in Africa Jesse N. Mongrue M. Ed, 2011-08 The history of Liberia and the United States are closely tied together, but few people have taken the necessary steps to understand the complicated relationship between the two countries. *Liberia: America's Footprint in Africa* traces the history of an African nation whose fate is closely tied to an uprising of slaves that began on the island that is now Haiti. The violence there caused people in the United States to wonder about the future of slavery and blacks in their own nation. In this detailed history written by a Liberian educator, you'll discover: - how the American Colonization Society played a critical role in the creation of Liberia; - how courageous blacks living in the United States persevered in seeking freedom; - how Liberia is culturally, socially, and politically connected to the United States. Discover the rich history of two nations and why Liberia remains relevant today. Enriched with interviews of scholars, Liberian community elders and detailed research, *Liberia: America's Footprint in Africa* is a step-by-step account of an overlooked country.

language spoken in liberia: State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa Ericka A. Albaugh, 2014-04-24 How do governments in Africa make decisions about language? What does language have to do with state-building, and what impact might it have on democracy? This manuscript provides a *longue durée* explanation for policies toward language in Africa, taking the reader through colonial, independence, and contemporary periods. It explains the growing trend toward the use of multiple languages in education as a result of new opportunities and incentives. The opportunities incorporate ideational relationships with former colonizers as well as the work of language NGOs on the ground. The incentives relate to the current requirements of democratic institutions, and the strategies leaders devise to win elections within these constraints. By contrasting the environment faced by African leaders with that faced by European state-builders, it explains the weakness of education and limited spread of standard languages on the continent. The work combines constructivist understanding about changing preferences with realist insights about the strategies leaders employ to maintain power.

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also addresses more recent, particularly urban, patterns of communication, and outlines applied dimensions of digitalization and human language technology.

language spoken in liberia: Beyond the Mango Tree Amy Bronwen Zemser, 2000-04-05 I am here, in the rain, tied to the mango tree. The water leve rises, above my naked feet, past my ankles. I wait ... It has been this way since Sarina's family moved to Liberia from Boston eight months ago. Her mother ties her to the mango tree in their front yard, terrified of losing her. It's never for long, and Sarina knows her mother doesn't mean to hurt her. But things just seem to get harder the longer her family stays in this country so far from home. On good days, when Sarina's mother is feeling better, she sets her daughter free. On bad days, Sarina dangles her feet in the puddles and mud until dusk, waiting for someone to rescue her, wishing for the one thing her mother fears most: a friend. Then one day Sarina meets Boima, a Liberian boy, and he becomes Sarina's cherished secret. He takes her to places outside her dirty yard, and shows her the ocean, the trees, and the people of Liberia. Together they discover what friendship really means ... and that there is a world of joy, hunger, and hope waiting just beyond the mango tree. 2000-2001 Georgia's Picture Storybook Award & Georgia's Children's Book Award Masterlist

language spoken in liberia: The Story of Spanish Jean-Benoît Nadeau, Julie Barlow, 2013-05-07 The authors of *The Story of French* are back with a new linguistic history of the Spanish language and its progress around the globe. Just how did a dialect spoken by a handful of shepherds in Northern Spain become the world's second most spoken language, the official language of twenty-one countries on two continents, and the unofficial second language of the United States? Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Barlow, the husband-and-wife team who chronicled the history of the French language in *The Story of French*, now look at the roots and spread of modern Spanish. Full of surprises and honed in Nadeau and Barlow's trademark style, combining personal anecdote, reflections, and deep research, *The Story of Spanish* is the first full biography of a language that shaped the world we know, and the only global language with two names—Spanish and Castilian. The story starts when the ancient Phoenicians set their sights on The Land of the Rabbits, Spain's original name, which the Romans pronounced as Hispania. The Spanish language would pick up bits of Germanic culture, a lot of Arabic, and even some French on its way to taking modern form just as it was about to colonize a New World. Through characters like Queen Isabella, Christopher Columbus, Cervantes, and Goya, *The Story of Spanish* shows how Spain's Golden Age, the Mexican Miracle, and the Latin American Boom helped shape the destiny of the language. Other, more somber episodes, also contributed, like the Spanish Inquisition, the expulsion of Spain's Jews, the destruction of native cultures, the political instability in Latin America, and the dictatorship of Franco. *The Story of Spanish* shows there is much more to Spanish than tacos, flamenco, and bullfighting. It explains how the United States developed its Hispanic personality from the time of the Spanish conquistadors to Latin American immigration and telenovelas. It also makes clear how fundamentally Spanish many American cultural artifacts and customs actually are, including the dollar sign, barbecues, ranching, and cowboy culture. The authors give us a passionate and intriguing chronicle of a vibrant language that thrived through conquests and setbacks to become the tongue of Pedro Almodóvar and Gabriel García Márquez, of tango and ballroom dancing, of millions of Americans and hundreds of millions of people throughout the world.

language spoken in liberia: Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect Lorenzo Dow Turner, 2002 A unique creole language spoken on the coastal islands and adjacent mainland of South Carolina and Georgia, Gullah existed as an isolated and largely ignored linguistic phenomenon until the publication of Lorenzo Dow Turner's landmark volume *Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect*. In his classic treatise, Turner, the first professionally trained African American linguist, focused on a people whose language had long been misunderstood, lifted a shroud that had obscured the true history of Gullah, and demonstrated that it drew important linguistic features directly from the languages of West Africa. Initially published in 1949, this groundbreaking work of Afrocentric scholarship opened American minds to a little-known culture while initiating a means for the Gullah people to reclaim and value their past. The book presents a reference point for today's discussions

about ever-present language varieties, Ebonics, and education, offering important reminders about the subtleties and power of racial and cultural prejudice. In their introduction to the volume, Katherine Wyly Mille and Michael B. Montgomery set the text in its sociolinguistic context, explore recent developments in the celebratio

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language spoken in liberia: Liberia Patricia Levy, Michael Spilling, Brett Griffin, 2018-04-15 The country of Liberia boasts a rich history and a vibrant culture. Founded as a home for former slaves and free blacks from the United States and the Caribbean, Liberia is unique among its African neighbors as the political, economic, and social structures of the country are derived from both American and African traditions. Detailed photographs and insightful sidebars accompany the text and allow the reader to learn about the challenges facing Liberia today, as well as the customs, cuisine, and artistic contributions of the Liberian people.

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Tamil-speaking rulers held sway over southern India, and into late-medieval and modern times, including the deeply contentious politics that overshadow Tamil today. Tamil is more than a language, Shulman says. It is a body of knowledge, much of it intrinsic to an ancient culture and sensibility. "Tamil" can mean both "knowing how to love"—in the manner of classical love poetry—and "being a civilized person." It is thus a kind of grammar, not merely of the language in its spoken and written forms but of the creative potential of its speakers.

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language spoken in liberia: **Official Language Designation** Sujit Choudhry and Erin C. Houlihan, 2021-04-29 Modern constitutions typically contain a variety of provisions on language. They may designate one or more official languages, each with a different kind of legal status. Constitutions may also create language rights, usually held by minority-language speakers, granting groups and individuals the right to communicate with, and receive services from, the government in their native tongue. In systems of multi-level governance, constitutions may vest the authority to designate official language(s) for each order of government. This Primer addresses the role of language in constitutional design, and the key considerations, implications and potential challenges that arise in multilingual states. It discusses the range of claims around language as a constitutional issue, and the potential consequences of successfully addressing these claims—or failing to do so.

language spoken in liberia: *Zialo* Kirill Vladimirovich Babaev, 2010

language spoken in liberia: **Ama, a Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade** Manu Herbstein, 2018-01-05 I am a human being; I am a woman; I am a black woman; I am an African. Once I was free; then I was captured and became a slave; but inside me, here and here, I am still a free woman. During a period of four hundred years, European slave traders ferried some 12 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic. In the Americas, teaching a slave to read and write was a criminal offense. When the last slaves gained their freedom in Brazil, barely a thousand of them were literate. Hardly any stories of the enslaved and transported Africans have survived. This novel is an attempt

to recreate just one of those stories, one story of a possible 12 million or more. Lawrence Hill created another in *The Book of Negroes* (Someone Knows my Name in the U.S.) and, more recently, Yaa Gyasi has done the same in *Homegoing*. Ama occupies center stage throughout this novel. As the story opens, she is sixteen. Distant drums announce the death of her grandfather. Her family departs to attend the funeral, leaving her alone to tend her ailing baby brother. It is 1775. Asante has conquered its northern neighbor and exacted an annual tribute of 500 slaves. The ruler of Dagbon dispatches a raiding party into the lands of the neighboring Bekpokpam. They capture Ama. That night, her lover, Itsho, leads an attack on the raiders' camp. The rescue bid fails. Sent to collect water from a stream, Ama comes across Itsho's mangled corpse. For the rest of her life she will call upon his spirit in time of need. In Kumase, the Asante capital, Ama is given as a gift to the Queen-mother. When the adolescent monarch, Osei Kwame, conceives a passion for her, the regents dispatch her to the coast for sale to the Dutch at Elmina Castle. There the governor, Pieter de Bruyn, selects her as his concubine, dressing her in the elegant clothes of his late Dutch wife and instructing the obese chaplain to teach her to read and write English. De Bruyn plans to marry Ama and take her with him to Europe. He makes a last trip to the Dutch coastal outstations and returns infected with yellow fever. On his death, his successor rapes Ama and sends her back to the female dungeon. Traumatized, her mind goes blank. She comes to her senses in the canoe which takes her and other women out to the slave ship, *The Love of Liberty*. Before the ship leaves the coast of Africa, Ama instigates a slave rebellion. It fails and a brutal whipping leaves her blind in one eye. The ship is becalmed in mid-Atlantic. Then a fierce storm cripples it and drives it into the port of Salvador, capital of Brazil. Ama finds herself working in the fields and the mill on a sugar estate. She is absorbed into slave society and begins to adapt, learning Portuguese. Years pass. Ama is now totally blind. Clutching the cloth which is her only material link with Africa, she reminisces, dozes, falls asleep. A short epilogue brings the story up to date. The consequences of the slave trade and slavery are still with us. Brazilians of African descent remain entrenched in the lower reaches of society, enmeshed in poverty. "This is story telling on a grand scale," writes Tony Simões da Silva. "In *Ama*, Herbstein creates a work of literature that celebrates the resilience of human beings while denouncing the inscrutable nature of their cruelty. By focusing on the brutalization of Ama's body, and on the psychological scars of her experiences, Herbstein dramatizes the collective trauma of slavery through the story of a single African woman. Ama echoes the views of writers, historians and philosophers of the African diaspora who have argued that the phenomenon of slavery is inextricable from the deepest foundations of contemporary western civilization." *Ama, a Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, won the 2002 Commonwealth Writers Prize for the Best First Book.

language spoken in liberia: *Between the Kola Forest and the Salty Sea* C. Patrick Burrowes, 2016-12-09 *Between the Kola Forest and the Salty Sea* reveals the long-hidden story of those who lived in the region before Liberia was created. It draws on oral traditions, archaeological digs, historical linguistics, studies of cultural patterns embedded in material culture, regional and continental histories, and biological anthropology.

language spoken in liberia: *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education* Colin Baker, Sylvia Prys Jones, 1998 This encyclopedia is divided into three sections: individual bilingualism; bilingualism in society and bilingual education. It includes many pictures, graphs, maps and diagrams. The book concludes with a comprehensive bibliography on bilingualism.

language spoken in liberia: *Area Handbook for Liberia*, 1970

language spoken in liberia: *Jaadeh!* Robtel Neajai Pailey, 2019 *Jaadeh!* is the highly-anticipated sequel to Robtel Neajai Pailey's *Gbagba*, the anti-corruption children's book that has transformed elementary classrooms in Liberia. In *Jaadeh!*, twins Sundaymah and Sundaygar learn about the trappings of truthfulness.

language spoken in liberia: *Liberia*, 1957

language spoken in liberia: *Standards of English* Raymond Hickey, 2012-12-06 The first book-length exploration of 'standard Englishes' with contributions by the leading experts on each major variety of English discussed.

language spoken in liberia: *Memory Speaks* Julie Sedivy, 2021-10-12 From an award-winning writer and linguist, a scientific and personal meditation on the phenomenon of language loss and the possibility of renewal. As a child Julie Sedivy left Czechoslovakia for Canada, and English soon took over her life. By early adulthood she spoke Czech rarely and badly, and when her father died unexpectedly, she lost not only a beloved parent but also her firmest point of connection to her native language. As Sedivy realized, more is at stake here than the loss of language: there is also the loss of identity. Language is an important part of adaptation to a new culture, and immigrants everywhere face pressure to assimilate. Recognizing this tension, Sedivy set out to understand the science of language loss and the potential for renewal. In *Memory Speaks*, she takes on the psychological and social world of multilingualism, exploring the human brain's capacity to learn—and forget—languages at various stages of life. But while studies of multilingual experience provide resources for the teaching and preservation of languages, Sedivy finds that the challenges facing multilingual people are largely political. Countering the widespread view that linguistic pluralism splinters loyalties and communities, Sedivy argues that the struggle to remain connected to an ancestral language and culture is a site of common ground, as people from all backgrounds can recognize the crucial role of language in forming a sense of self. Distinctive and timely, *Memory Speaks* combines a rich body of psychological research with a moving story at once personal and universally resonant. As citizens debate the merits of bilingual education, as the world's less dominant languages are driven to extinction, and as many people confront the pain of language loss, this is badly needed wisdom.

language spoken in liberia: *The River Is Rising* Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, 2023-08-15 Patricia Jabbeh Wesley and her family fled their native country after suffering tremendous privations and violence during the bloody Liberian Civil War at the end of the 20th Century. These poems are more than the story of one woman who carried her children over dead bodies in the streets where she lived, who fled bombs and constant gunfire, who was locked with her daughters in an internment camp where she witnessed every kind of crime against women. Wesley did more than survive. She helped other women. She wrote. *The River Is Rising* is more than a collection of poems, it is a story of family, customs, struggle, survival, witness, and love. Originally published by Autumn House Press in 2007, Press 53 returns this important book to print as part of its Silver COncho Poetry Series, edited by Pamela Uschuk and William Pitt Root.

language spoken in liberia: *The Slave States of America* James Silk Buckingham, 1842

language spoken in liberia: *Area Handbook for Liberia* American University (Washington, D.C.). Foreign Areas Studies Division, Thomas Duval Roberts, 1964 Analyses social, political, economic and governmental aspects of Liberia.

language spoken in liberia: *Creative Multilingualism* Rajinder Dudrah, Katrin Kohl, Andrew Gosler, 2020-05-05 *Creative Multilingualism: A Manifesto* is a welcome contribution to the field of modern languages, highlighting the intricate relationship between multilingualism and creativity, and, crucially, reaching beyond an Anglo-centric view of the world.

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