

## SURVEY RESPONSES: LANGUAGE PREFERENCES IN CAMEROON, SENEGAL AND GHANA

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Surveys were drawn from three different regions or provinces in each country between Sept 2002 and April 2003. I selected urban and rural regions, as well as those with major and minor languages. In Cameroon, surveys were administered in 12 towns, seven Francophone (Bafia, Ombessa, and Yaounde in the Center Province; Banjoun, Batcham, Dschang and Mbouda in the West Province) and five Anglophone (Bafut, Bali, Bamenda, Kumbo and Nkambe in the Northwest Province). In Senegal, they were administered in three quarters of Dakar, Nguekoh (Petit Côte region), two quarters of Thiès (Central Region) and Kaolack (Central Region, inland). In Ghana, the surveys were administered in two quarters of Accra, Sogakope in the Volta Region, and Tamali in the Northern Region. The survey was intended to reach as broad a cross-section of respondents as possible. Supervised research assistants translated it into the local language whenever necessary. Assistants went to a public setting – a market or a downtown street – and selected a relatively random sample: every fourth stall, office or dwelling, for example. They included non-literate respondents by asking the questions verbally and transcribing their answers.

A total of 693 valid responses were collected. Of these, 60 percent were male and 40 percent female. Respondents varied in age from 18 to 90, with the majority (64%) aged 20 to 40. Eleven percent of respondents had no formal education, 19 percent had primary education, 30 percent secondary, and 29 percent post-secondary (nine percent did not indicate education level).

### *Survey Questionnaire*

Please respond to the following questions. All responses are strictly confidential. Thank you!

1. What is the first language you spoke at home?
2. Some have proposed that children should be taught in their mother tongue for the first years of primary school and then transition to English. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or Why not?
3. Would you prefer your own child begin primary school education in the mother tongue or in English?

Please provide the following demographic information:

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Education level achieved (circle): *none primary secondary post-secondary*

Province of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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\* From *The Colonial Image Reversed: Advocates of Multilingual Education in Africa* (Ph.D. Dissertation: Duke University, 2005).

The following tables report the number of respondents who answered “yes” to question #2 (*Some have proposed that children should be taught in their mother tongue for the first years of primary schools and then transition to English. Do you think this is a good idea?*) AND “mother tongue” to question #3 (*Would you prefer your own child begin primary school education in the mother tongue or in English [French]?*).

Valid Surveys		Yes/MT	%Yes /MT
Cameroon	319	142	45%
Senegal	219	103	47%
Ghana	155	38	25%
TOTAL	693	283	41%

### COMBINED RESPONSES

	Valid	%	Yes/MT	%Yes/MT
All:	693	100%	283	41%
Male	416	60%	187	45%
Female	274	40%	94	34%
NRSex	2	0%	1	50%
<20	8	1%	2	25%
20-30	225	32%	64	28%
30-40	224	32%	83	37%
40-50	169	24%	78	46%
50-60	89	13%	42	47%
60-70	52	8%	34	65%
70+	19	3%	11	58%
No Response Age	4	1%	0	0%
No Education	79	11%	43	54%
Primary	134	19%	65	49%
Secondary	207	30%	75	36%
Post-Secondary	200	29%	78	39%
No Response Educ	65	9%	19	29%
Civil Service	56	8%	31	55%
Professor	5	1%	2	40%
Teachers	65	9%	31	48%

## CAMEROON

	<b>Valid</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Yes/MT</b>	<b>%Yes/MT</b>
All:	319	100%	142	45%
Male	197	62%	99	50%
Female	121	38%	43	36%
No Response Sex	1	0%	0	0%
<20	7	2%	2	29%
20-30	95	30%	30	32%
30-40	107	34%	42	39%
40-50	64	20%	27	42%
50-60	46	14%	23	50%
60-70	34	11%	22	65%
70+	9	3%	9	100%
No Response Age	0	0%	0	0%
No Education	23	7%	17	74%
Primary	78	24%	38	49%
Secondary	91	29%	33	36%
Post-Secondary	100	31%	45	45%
No Response Educ	27	8%	9	33%
Civil Service	21	7%	13	62%
Professor	1	0%	1	100%
Teachers	48	15%	24	50%

### SENEGAL

	Valid	%	Yes/MT	%Yes/MT
All:	219	100%	103	47%
Male	115	53%	57	50%
Female	103	47%	45	44%
No Response Sex	1	0%	1	100%
<20	0	0%	0	0%
20-30	72	33%	22	31%
30-40	62	28%	28	45%
40-50	62	28%	38	61%
50-60	27	12%	15	56%
60-70	15	7%	11	73%
70+	5	2%	1	20%
No Response Age	0	0%	0	0%
No Education	45	21%	26	58%
Primary	45	21%	23	51%
Secondary	64	29%	30	47%
Post-Secondary	28	13%	13	46%
No Response Educ	31	14%	8	26%
Civil Service	9	4%	6	67%
Professor	4	2%	1	25%
Teachers	10	5%	6	60%

## GHANA

	Valid	%	Yes/MT	%Yes/MT
All:	155	100%	38	25%
Male	104	67%	31	30%
Female	50	32%	6	12%
No Response Sex	0	0%	0	0%
<20	1	1%	0	0%
20-30	58	37%	12	21%
30-40	55	35%	13	24%
40-50	43	28%	13	30%
50-60	16	10%	4	25%
60-70	3	2%	1	33%
70+	1	1%	1	100%
No Response Age	1	1%	0	0%
No Education	11	7%	0	0%
Primary	11	7%	4	36%
Secondary	52	34%	12	23%
Post-Secondary	73	47%	20	27%
No Response Educ	7	5%	2	29%
Civil Service	26	17%	12	46%
Professor	0	0%	0	0%
Teachers	9	6%	3	33%