

INTRODUCTION TO THE IGBO LANGUAGE

by

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Welcome to Ìgbo World (Ụwa Ndi Ìgbo)! We will begin our study of the language with a brief introduction.

As you probably know already, Ìgbo is one of the major African languages. Although it is spoken predominantly in Biafra (former Eastern Nigeria), it is widely spoken in almost all the countries of this world by the Ìgbo Diaspora. If you are an Ìgbo, it is important that you learn to speak, read, and write Ìgbo because the language of a people is their most important heritage on which the survival of their culture and their continued existence on earth as a people largely depend. If you are a foreigner (a tourist, a friend of the Ìgbo Nation, etc.), we thank you sincerely for your interest in our language, our culture, and our people. A knowledge of the Ìgbo Language will, amongst other things, give you the key to the heart of the Ìgbo people (Ndi Ìgbo). In fact, it will enable you to understand why the Igbos are unique in Africa, why they are hated and admired by their erstwhile colonial masters and detractors, and, above all, why they are wanted and unwanted in the Nigeria they call their country. That said, let us begin our study of the language with a look at the writing or orthographic system.