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# Nomenclatural Processes of Plant and Animal Names in Itu Mbon Uso

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## Abstract

This paper focuses on the description of plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso. The work examines the linguistic and semantic implication of plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso and the processes used in naming them. Scientific names for plants and animals are official and acceptable globally. In Itu Mbon Uso language, these plants and animals have their indigenous names. This research adopts the descriptive method and data were elicited from thirty-five (35) respondents who were selected through a stratified sampling method. The analysis reveals that plants and animals are named, identified and classified based on shared characteristics. In Itu Mbon Uso, plants and animal names reflect the proportion of the grammatical and semantic structure of Itu Mbon Uso language, culture and beliefs. The study further shows that plants and animals are named based on their habitat, appearance, geographical adaptation as well as other salient characteristics. The research is useful to scholars, linguists, students and the general public in Onomastics and recommends further research extensively on interdisciplinary fields between language and natural environmental studies.

**Keywords:** Onomastics, Itu Mbon Uso, phytonymy, zoonymy, language.

## 1. Introduction

Naming was the first assignment that God Almighty gave to man according to Bible narration in Gen. 2:19-20. Naming is an important part of human communication using words in a language for identification, but the processes of assigning names and the meaning attached to names differ from one culture to another as well as from one society to the other.

Essien (1986:5) opines that name is not an arbitrary affair. According to him, name involves a mental, and emotional, a linguistic as well as a cultural consideration. Plants and animals play a very crucial role in traditional African culture, and therefore names given to them reveal much about the language of such a speech community. Botanists, zoologists, agriculturists, historians, traditional practitioners as well as linguists pay special interest on plant and animal names to study their meaning, grammatical structure, and other derivatives.

It is only the scientific names of plants and animals that are universal, other indigenous names are determined by popular usage in the indigenous languages. Matisoff (2011) believes that “there are so many plants and animal species in the world that would be hopeless for any language to give them analyzable names”. It is therefore imperative and of necessity that many plant and animal names need to be documented extensively including the descriptive analysis of important species. And this is what this present research work is set to duly explore.

Language is an especially important aspect of human existence and it is part and parcel of human culture. There is no society without language. The usefulness of language cannot be overemphasized as language is used for interaction and information passage in all spheres of life Eka and Udofot (1996). Gimson (1980:24) sees language as a “system of conventional signals used for communication by a whole community. This pattern of convention covers a system of significant sound units, the reflection and arrangement of words and the association of meaning with words”. Essien (2003:16) on the other hand defines language as “system of structural arbitrary vocal symbols using which human beings make meaning and communicate and interact with each other in a given community”. It is therefore pertinent to note that as much as scholars and linguists have ways of defining and expressing what language is, the basic idea is that language is useful to every community for interaction and communication.

Language description is an amazingly effective means of analyzing language. Udosen (2010:15) describes language documentation “as a field of linguistic enquiry and practice concerned with the compilation of long-lasting multi-purpose recording and preservation of linguistic data”. Language documentation involves a collection of linguistic data of a speech community and preserving or storing these data in a “reusable form”

Language extinction results in the permanent loss of the vital historical, cultural, and ecological experience of a speech community Crystal (2000). The zeal to impugn language extinction gives birth to language documentation to preserve the language and other historical and cultural identities of a speech community. Extinction of some languages of the world is due to few or no speakers of such languages while some other languages are endangered as well. This research is to preempt such phenomenon and occurrence by examining plant and animal names and documenting these names for posterity. Udoh (2010:46) opines that “language documentation begins with the recording of a speech community’s practices and tradition... In addition, the documentation is usually carried out with some level of description”. Language description, on the other hand, entails the analysis of linguistic data.

Itu Mbon Uso is one of the four clans that make up Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The major occupation of the people of Itu Mbon Uso is farming. The clan is blessed with fertile and arable soil which enables them to cultivate and produce food crops such as rice, maize, cassava, yam, okra, vegetables, plantain, banana, melon as well as cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, kola nuts etc. Itu Mbon Uso is claimed to be the food basket of Akwa Ibom State.

The name “Itu Mbon Uso” is used to refer to the people of Itu Mbon Uso as well as the language spoken by these people over the years. Findings reveal that the real name of the language was “Mbonedem” and due to the derogatory meaning attached to

“Mbonedem” (Mbonedem literary means backward people), the people neglected the usage of *Mbonedem* and Itu Mbon Uso is now used to refer to both the people and the language. Itu Mbon Uso is spoken in Ini and Bende local government areas of Akwa Ibom and the Abia States in South South and South East Geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Itu Mbon Uso language is classified under the Benue-Congo subfamily under the Niger-Congo language family. Itu Mbon Uso is identified among the Lower Cross Languages. Cornell (1994:14) in Urua (1996:6) describes Itu Mbon Uso as forming a ‘cluster of dialects’ with Ibuoro, Ito, Iwerre and Nkari. Itu Mbon Uso is closely related to Ibibio, Efik and Anaañ.

Itu Mbon Uso is an agrarian society, but unfortunately, the youth of the area have neglected this nature-driven occupation. This negligence by the youths has negative effects on the culture, especially the language. Some of the plant and animal names are gradually fading out and most of the names are going extinct. Onomastically, not much attention is paid to plant and animal names. To boost and revitalize these language aspects, this research is therefore incredibly significant as it is particularly important to analyze these plant and animal names and to document them for posterity. By so doing, the research helps in revitalizing the language and culture of Itu Mbon Uso thereby keeping it alive in perpetuity and existence.

The degree at which indigenous names are going into extinction is alarming and Itu Mbon Uso indigenous names are no exception. This research is aimed specifically to solve the problem of plant and animal nomenclature and to provide a vocabulary list, analyze plant and animal names which can be augmented with a comprehensive set of names of plants and animals in Itu Mbon Uso. It is also a step to document the existing indigenous names of plants and animals in Itu Mbon Uso language for identification, comprehension, and preservation.

## **2. Methodology**

This research adopts the descriptive/analytical method. Data were collected through oral interview and were used only as of the basis for description and identification in the language thereby providing real-life examples of the onomastic phenomenon. The target population is the native speakers of Itu Mbon Uso which comprises 20 males and 15 females whose ages ranged between 50 and 70 years.

## **3. Data Presentation and Analysis of Plant and Animal Names in Itu Mbon Uso**

We shall now deal with the analysis of the grammatical structures of the names and their nomenclatural processes. Essien (1986) worked on the structure and meanings of Ibibio names. According to him, Ibibio names reflect the basic grammar of the Ibibio language. Just like Ibibio, it is observed from the data collected that, the structure of Itu Mbon Uso names reflects a great proportion of the grammar of the language. The structural properties of plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso, including but not limited to common nouns, noun phrases and whole sentences.

### 3.1 Some Plant and Animal Names Serving as Common Nouns

#### Plant Names

1. ọkófí “beans”
2. ùkánà “African bean”
3. oyòb “palm fruit”
4. íkpán “mellon”
5. nnàńí “pumpkin leaf”
6. nkùdì “a kind of vegetable”
7. atítán “a kind of vegetable”
8. ùtòṣṅ “scent leaf”
9. àfāń “a kind of vegetable”
10. émiṅ “a kind of vegetable”
11. ìkó “curry leaf”
12. àtámà “a kind of vegetable”
13. nkpòṅ “cocoyam”
14. ìwá “cassava”
15. biá “yam”
16. ékóm “walnut”
17. átá “a kind of spice”
18. nnyâ “garden egg”
19. ìbòṅ “kola nut”

#### Animal Names

20. éfè “a kind of night bird”
21. ékú “rat”
22. ébúa “dog”
23. ébát “hare”
24. énáń “cow”
25. édi “pig”
26. édôb “antelope”
27. mfèm “cockroach”
28. óbòṅ “mosquito”
29. íkúd “tortoise”
30. mbè “a big frog”

### 3.2 Some Plant and Animal Names Serving as Noun Phrases

Noun phrases can operate as names. These may include noun + noun (N + N), adjective + noun (Adj+N) or noun + adjectives (N+Adj).

#### N + N – Plant Names

31. ányìn énáń

- eye (N) cow (N)  
“cowpea”
32. úrdib òyá  
mushroom (N) tree (N)  
“a specie of mushroom”
33. ínúá ékwòṅ  
mouth (N) snail (N)  
“a species of mushroom”
34. Íkyíb ísòṅ  
nut (N) earth (N)  
“earth nut”
35. úrdíá òsísìghí  
food (N) a kind of bird (N)  
“a kind of wild fruit”

### Animal Names

36. ntítò úsũṅ  
children (N) road (N)  
“tiny road walker bird”
37. énáṅ ékòṅ  
cow (N) war (N)  
“horse”
38. úrúk íkòd  
rope (N) bush (N)  
“snake”
39. úkpòṅ èyèn  
soul (N) eye (N)  
“wall gecko”
40. èkòm íbé  
lice (N) box (N)  
“a kind of tick”

### 3.3 Some Plant and animal names consisting of adjective and noun (adj + N)

This consists of an adjective and a noun:

This consists of an adjective and a noun:

36. mmúṅ òmúṅ íkòṅ  
water water (Adj) leaf (N)  
“waterleaf”
36. àkpùkpà ébèkèí  
maize (N) foreign (Adj)  
“guinea corn”

37. ìkyíḅ    m̀b̀ék̀éì  
nut (N) foreign (Adj)  
“coconut”
38. nnàńí                      íkpu  
pumpkin leaf (N) ordinary (Adj)  
“soft pumpkin leaf”
39. ébèn            mbàkrák  
pear (N) foreign (Adj)  
“avocado pear”
40. òsòkròk            ńtá-ntà  
orange (N) tiny (Adj)  
“lime”
41. étì            ìdót  
peak (N) bitterness  
“bitter leaf”

### 3.4 Some Animal names consisting of adjective and noun/noun and adjective

#### Adjective + Noun

42. ìsìsì            ík̀òḅ̄  
fresh (Adj) leaf (N)  
“green snake/mamba”
43. àtá            ábàsì  
real (Adj) god (N)  
“crayfish”

#### Noun + Adjective

44. ìsìm            ìbà  
tail (N) two (Adj)  
“centipede”
45. ùnìn            éb̀èk̀èì  
fowl (N) foreign (Adj)  
“guinea fowl”
46. àd̄j̄a                      étòk  
first daughter (N) small (Adj)  
“a kind of bird”
47. èkú            m̀b̀àk̀ará  
rat (N) foreign (Adj)  
“rabbit”
48. éńàń            mbàkrâk  
cow (N) foreign (Adj)  
“donkey”

### 3.5 Some Plant and Animal Names that are Whole Sentences

Plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso are sometimes made up of strings of words which are whole sentences.

49. í t̄ōn̄ ké étó (“It does not select wood”)  
3sg select Neg wood  
“A kind of mushroom”
50. m̄ b̄òb̄ò r̄ó (My attitude is not good)  
1sg good Neg  
“A specie of cocoyam”
51. m̄ báábáak íko (I am afraid of trouble)  
1sg fear word/talk  
“shame lady”
52. Ñ̄ k̄èk̄èmé (I am able)  
1sg able  
“Weevil”

### 3.6 Nomenclatural Processes of Plant and Animal Names in Itu Mbon Uso

This part has to do with how words (phytonyms and zoonyms) are formed in Itu Mbon Uso. It is divided into two: the morphological processes and the semantic bases/motives.

#### Morphological Processes

##### a. Compounding

Plant names in Itu Mbon Uso that are compounds

53. ík̄ōn̄ n̄nyínàk  
leaf (N) garden egg (N)  
“Garden egg leaf”
54. nt̄uèn̄ íb̄òk̄  
pepper(N) medicine(N)  
“alligator pepper”
55. óyób̄ ékp̄ò  
palm fruit(N) ghost(N)  
“Pineapple”
56. Òt̄òt̄òk̄ íb̄ōn̄  
Wild fruit(N) kolanut(N)  
“A kind of wild fruit”



## Compound Animal names in Itu Mbon Uso

57. àkíkòṅ ètò  
pecking wood(N)  
“Barbet”
58. éṅàṅ m̀bìòmmó  
cow(N) load(N)  
“carmel”
59. mfrí ùkààṅ  
fruit(N) giraffe(N)  
“Giraffe”
60. áyará ékìàṅ  
male(Adj) lizard(N)  
“agama lizard”
61. mbòb idem  
tying body(N)  
“stinging ant”

### b. Reduplication

Some plant and animal names in ItuMbonUso have gone through the morphological process of reduplication. They are illustrated below:

#### Plant Names

62. mmún m̀mún íkòṅ “water leaf”
63. ínyéínyé “a kind of mushroom”
64. m̀bábáakíko “shame lady”
65. èfífík “plantain”
66. úyáhúyá “Aidan fruit”

#### Animal Names

67. nsìghísíghí “a tiny bird”
68. ètún ètún “A kind of bird”
69. òkprùkòkprùk “A worm-like snake”
70. ètùtùètùé “Spider”
71. àkpàtâmtâm “Small cricket”
72. mkpàfìopm̀fìop “Butterfly”
73. ètèhèdèfíkò íkò “Prag mantis”
74. nkèkèmé “Weevil”

Examples 68 – 80 are the plant and animal names that can be referred to as reduplicants. The reduplicant here is the repeated portion of a word, while the base is the portion of

the word that provides the source material for repetition. The base can be a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

The base of the replicant “mmún̄ r̄mún̄ íkòñ (waterleaf) is mmún̄ (water) a noun. N̄nyéńnyé is a complete reduplicant which means “tiny and weak”. The reduplicant is seen as an adjective which qualifies the specie of mushroom “ńnyéńnyé”.

The base of the reduplicant mbábáakíko (shame lady) is bák (fear) which is a verb. “èfífík” (plantain) is also a reduplicant of the base form “fík” (which means “to press”). “nkprùkùkprùk” is a complete reduplicant. The base is “kprùk”. “ètùtùètùè (Spider) is the reduplicant of the verb “tùè” which means to “create” a boundary”. The base form of àkpàtàm̄tàm̄ (small cricket) is the verb tàm̄ (jump) that of mkpàfiop̄m̄fiop̄ (butterfly) is the verb “fiop̄” (hop). The base form of ètèhèdèkò íkò (preg mantis) is the noun íkò (word).

### c. Borrowing

Most of the names found in the process of borrowing in plant and animal are found in exotic species. Exotic or foreign plant or animal is that specie that is living outside its native environment, which is brought in by human activity intentionally or by accident. Exotic plant or an animal introduced to a society required such a speech community to borrow the name from the source or the language where such exotic plant and animal comes from. Some of the plant and animal names that are borrowed into Itu Mbon Uso language are shown below:

#### 75. Borrowed Forms

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss	Borrowed form	Donor language
kòfí	coffee	coffee	English
kókò	cocoa	cocoa	English
ápùl	apple	apple	English
kàsú	kàsú	cashew	English
kwófà	guava	guava	English
kókómbà	cucumber	cucumber	English
fík	fig	fig	English
tòkí	turkey	turkey	English
ùnè	banana	ùnè	Igbo
ùbékrek	groundnut		Igbo
òkòmbékéí	duck		Igbo
òsókrok	orange	osokoro	Ibibio
nnyàtéd	squirrel cherry	nnyàtéd	Ibibio
ntùèn	pepper	ntùèn	Ibibio
akpùkpà	maize	akpàkpà	Ibibio
ètídòt	bitter leaf	ètídòt	Ibibio

ntítód	aubergine	ntítód	Ibibio
nkpòṅ	cocoyam	íkpoṅ	Ibibio
mmúnmmún íkòṅ	water leaf	mmòṅmmòṅ íkòṅ	Ibibio
òtúrúkpòm	eagle	òtúrúkpòm	Ibibio
ìním	parrot	ìním	Ibibio
únîn	chicken	únèn	Ibibio
ékpè	lion	ékpè	Ibibio
éniìn	elephant	éniìn	Ibibio
òfiom	crocodile	òfiom	Ibibio
éròṅ	sheep	éròṅ	Ibibio
édi	pig	édi	Ibibio

### 3.7 Names Based on the Location or Habitat

#### 76. Plant Names

Ikyib isoṅ	Earth nut
údfbnyá	(the mushroom grows on a kind of tree called “nyá”)
ányáíkdò	it mostly grows in the bush

#### 77. Animal Names

ntító úsūṅ	tiny road walker bird” (This kind of birds are mostly found on the road which is their preferred habitat)
òkò mbékefidím	swan” The bird lives on or near water “swan”
íkúd ídìm	turtle” turtle lives in the sea
àkíkòṅ ètò	“barbet” The birds usually pecks on trees to make holes on them. The holes on the trees eventually become their homes/habitats.
úrúkíkòd:	“snake” Snakes mostly stay in the bush

### 3.8 Names Based on Appearance

The appearance here includes among other features the colour, shape or size of the plant or animal in question. Plant and animal names under this category are:

#### 78. Plants - Appearance

Plant Names	Description
údfbnkyénúnîn mushroom egg	The egg-like shape of the mushroom is where the plant derives its name.
òsókrókífdà grape rashes	The fruit has some features which look like rashes on its skin hence the name.

òsókrók orange	ntá-ntá tiny	The size of the fruit is tiny/small
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Plant names	Gloss	Description
Ìsìsì íkòṅ fresh leaf	snake	The name is derived based on the colour of the snake. “íkòṅ” (leaf) is used instead of the colour “green” because leaves are green in colour.
nnàní íkpu pumpkin leaf	soft pumpkin leaf a vegetable	The vegetable resembles pumpkin leaf
òyóbékpô palm fruit ghost	pineapple	The fruit pineapple to some extent has some features that resemble that of the palm fruit.
òtòtòkíḃòṅ wild fruit kola nut	A kind of wild fruit	The wild fruit looks like kola nut.
nkrákékpô peppery fruit ghost	A kind of wild fruit	The fruit looks like “Nkrák” (peppery fruit).
nkpátáúyó seed mango	Bush mango	It resembles mango
ntuèníbòk pepper medicine	Alligator pepper	It resembles pepper to some extent
ányín éṅàṅ	Cowpea	Resembles the eye of a cow
Èfíkíṣòṅ Appendix earth	Common earth-ball	The structure and the size of the plant resembles that of an appendix

#### 79. Animals - Appearance

Animal Names	Gloss	Description
ókòmbékéíídìṁ duck stream	Swan	The bird shares some features with “ókòmbékéíídìṁ” (duck)
mfríúkàṅṅ fruit + giraffe		The appearance of this reptile resembles that of giraffe
éṅàṅ mbìòmmó cow load	Carmel	A cow often used to carry loads.
éṅàṅ ékòṅ cow war	Horse	A cow-like animal that is often used to fight a war.
éṅàṅ mbàkrák Cow foreign	Donkey	A horse-like animal assumed to always belong to the whites.
Nkùkùndréekpê	Grasshopper	The name means the insect that has the teeth of a lion.

Úrúk íkòd Rope bush	Snake	To some extent, snake resembles a rope due to its length which is horizontal and its flexibility.
Nnyághíídìm A kind stream of rope found in palm wine tree.	A kind of fish	The fish resembles “nnyághí”.

### 3.9 Plant and Animal Names Based on Geographical Origin (especially of introduced specie)

Plant and animal names under this category are mostly non-indigenous species but introduced ones.

#### 80. Plants - Geographical Origin

Plant Names	Gloss
Àkpùkpàébékèí Maize white man Maize of the white	Guinea corn
Íkyíbróbékèí Nut white man	Coconut
ébénm̀bàkrák pear foreign	Avocado pear
Nkpòñ Úkwà Cocoyam Name of neighbouring Town of Itu Mbon Uso	White cocoyam

#### 81. Animals - Geographical Origin

Animal Names	Gloss
òkò mbékèí white	Duck
únìnébèkèí fowl white	Guinea fowl
Ènàn Mbàkrák Cow foreign	Donkey

### 3.10 Names Based on the Favorite Food – Host of a Parasite

#### 82. Food - Plants

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss	Description
Údíańsísghí Food a kind of bird	A kind of wild fruit	This wild fruit is named as the food that the bird “ńsísghí” feed on.
Údíaébêd food goat	A goat fodder	This forage is named thus, because, it is specifically fed to goats

#### 83. Food - Animals

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss	Description
Útáíkpán eater melon	A kind of animal	This mammal feeds on melon
Útáañíyak Eater pl marker fish	A kind of snake	This is a kind of snake that eats fish

### 3.11 Names Based on the Sounds Made by the Species (Animals Only)

There are some animals in Itu Mbon Uso that are named by the sound they make. They include:

#### 84. Sound - Animals

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss
òkùhùńkùhù	Owl
Útúád	A specie of frog
Mfúńáúnyó (mfúnúnyó)	A small fly
ńsísghí	A kind of bird

### 3.12 Names Based on the Taste of the Plant (Plants Only)

#### 85. Sound - Plants

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss	Description
etídôt (etídôt)	Bitter leaf	The leaf is bitter
ndó                      n̄kòñ	A wild fruit	This fruit is said to be very sweet

### 3.13 Plant and Animal Names Based on other Characteristics

The plant and animal names under this category do not fall into any of the categories above. Below are some descriptive plant and animal names found in Itu Mbon Uso.

## 86. Others

Itu Mbon Uso	Gloss	Description
í tòn ke étó It does not select tree/wood	A kind of mushroom	The name is based on the fact that the mushroom can sprout anywhere/ on any tree.
Mbóbòrò I am not answering	A specie of cocoyam	“Mbóbòrò” is aggressive cocoyam, when planted, it spreads uncontrollably; this is the motive for the name.
Mbábáákíkó I am afraid of trouble	Shame lady	“Mbábáákíkó” literally translated as I am afraid of trouble, the common English name is “shame lady”. Both names refer to a salient characteristic of the plant, which is sensitivity to contact with foreign bodies when touched, it responds by folding up its leaves as if to avoid further contact.
Nkp̀r̀ù̀k̀ǹk̀p̀r̀ù̀k̀	A worm-like snake	This name is derived from an ideophone “kp̀r̀ù̀k̀” which means to be rough (not smooth). The skin of the snake is always rough whenever it moves.
Óbúbókúfid Lump faeces	weevil	This is named “óbúbókúfid” because it moulds faeces and rolls it.
ók̀p̀ò̀ǹ ò̀t̀í̀ (ók̀p̀ò̀hòt̀í̀) Big jaw	A kind of wild fruit	“ók̀p̀ò̀hòt̀í̀” is a wild fruit. If it is not eaten with care, it causes pain in the mouth and makes the jaw to swell or become big. This is where it derives the name “big jaw”.
Íkúk̀wà̀k̀	A kind of animal	The name íkúk̀wà̀k̀ is derived from the word “íkúk̀wà̀k̀” which means rib. The name is based on the fact that the animal does not have much flesh and the reflection of its ribs can be seen.
ìkà̀rá̀	Tree pangolin	The name ìkà̀rá̀ (a folded cloth used in carrying a load) came about because tree pangolin when threatened, rolls up into a ball, protecting itself with its thick skin and scales. hence, it is called ìkà̀rá̀ in Itu Mbon Uso.
íkà̀ǹ ék̀p̀ò̀	An insect that gives light at night	The insect is named thus because it mysteriously gives light at night.

úkpòṅ èyèn	Wall gecko	This name is culturally based. In the olden days, it is forbidden to kill “úkpòṅ èyèn” because it is believed that when it is seen in the house, the house is bound to be filled with children. In a nutshell, it is a symbol of fruitfulness. Therefore, it is called “soul of a child”
Àkpàtàm-tàm Expert in jumping	Small cricket	This name is based on the movement of the animal which is jumping from one place to another.

#### 4. Findings

The grammatical structure of plant and animal names found in the data collected are common nouns, nouns phrases and sentences. The nomenclatural processes consist of the morphological processes that motivate the names. These processes are descriptive.

From the data, some plant and animal names were once descriptive but, they became extinct syntactically, morphologically and semantically, so that their origin was no longer apparent. Most of these names have their etymologies from words that have passed out of use. Therefore, we cannot identify the structures and the nomenclatural processes of all the names.

It is also possible that some of these plant and animal names were borrowed in ancient times from other languages of which we do not know. Itu Mbon Uso names for plants and animals are also a source of rich traditional information if correctly understood.

There is the need to preserve Itu Mbon Uso language from endangerment which inspired this research work and to document and describe data on an aspect of the language which is plant and animal names.

Semantically, it is discovered that most plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso appear to have had some sort of original meaning (literal meaning) usually descriptive, rather than being a collection of sounds. These descriptive names developed from nouns, verbs and adjectives and through these, the motives for such names are known.

#### 5. Conclusion

Language documentation and description is a major step towards preserving a language from going into extinction. In this study, Itu Mbon Uso is seen as a language that needs preservation and revitalization due to few speakers or lack of use by the native speakers. Language documentation and description become richer if our natural environment that relates to language is considered. This propelled the documentation and description of plant and animal names in Itu Mbon Uso.



This research has resulted in a vocabulary list and classification of plants and animals in Itu Mbon Uso; and these names have been used in linguistic analysis at the levels of syntax, morphology and semantics. It is also conceived that this research should agitate other researchers within and outside language and linguistic field to engage in further studies in Itu Mbon Uso. Interdisciplinary studies should be conducted between the language and the speech community's natural environment.

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