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Forschungsthema:

"The Writing Systems of Indigenous African Languages: The Case of N'Ko"

Abstract:

Indigenous writing systems in Africa play a crucial role in preserving and transmitting the continent's diverse cultures and languages. N'Ko, an alphabet developed in 1949 by Solomana Kanté for the transcription of Manding languages such as Bambara, Dioula, and Mandingo, represents one of the most remarkable examples of this phenomenon. Kanté maintained that his alphabet was universal and could be used to transcribe all the world's languages claim that poses a significant linguistic and cultural challenge for Africa.

However, Aboubacar Diakité, a contemporary expert on N'Ko, argues that the system requires adaptation, particularly the addition of specific letters, to better represent the phonetic particularities of Bambara, Dioula, and Mandingo, thereby making it more complete.

This dissertation seeks to examine these two opposing positions, which have not yet been sufficiently addressed in academic literature. Through a comparative analysis, it evaluates the linguistic, cultural, and philosophical implications of these differing conceptions of N'Ko. The aim is to understand the challenges of N'Ko regarding its adaptability to the various Mandingo languages and to assess how well it meets the phonetic requirements of Africa's linguistic diversity. Ultimately, this research offers a critical reflection on the value of N'Ko as an instrument of linguistic and cultural unity, while also addressing the challenges inherent in its further development and broader application.