



IZKUNTZALARI GAZTEEN ELKARTEA ASOCIACIÓN DE XOVES LINGÜISTAS
ASSOCIACIÓ DE JOVES LINGÜISTES ASOCIACIÓN DE JÓVENES LINGÜISTAS

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“Using the mother tongue (L1) as a medium for early identification and diagnosis for
communication disorders: *A look at Nigeria*”

Monday Jimmy Uffort

In the absence of formal, institutional and systematic processes for early identification and diagnosis the informal family setup can be used as a milieu for identification of children with communication disorders. As policy grows to develop systematic and mandatory laws the family setting or unit can be incorporated and enhanced through education to become the bedrock of the processes of early identification which will be cost effective and very pragmatic. The family is the first unit in which the child begins to express him or herself. There are many physical, linguistic, social, emotional and medical conditions that distinguish the child with communication disorders that are exhibited in the homes through the use of the mother tongue. If parents are educated on these they will be able to identify their children early enough for the necessary interventions to take place. A lot of researchers have argued that the use of the mother tongue is the foundation for the development of cognitive faculties (Akinaso, 1993; Luckett, 1994; Okombo & Rubgumya, 1996). Thus the teething difficulties to be mother tongue in the family encountered in these domains will show themselves up through the use of the Though the use of the mother tongue in the family is a potent agent that can be used for early identification purposes it is largely overlooked and treated with such informality that we rob it of its potential in playing this vital role. This paper therefore addresses early identification and diagnosis processes and their rationale, advance arguments to support how and why the mother tongue can be used to discern communication disorders and then specific examples of the various types of the disorders are given to further accentuate the point.