

**CHALLENGES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE: A CASE OF LANGUAGE
PROBLEMS AMONG REFUGEES IN NAKIVALE-WESTERN UGANDA**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines language problems and the challenges of peaceful coexistence among the refugees of Nakivale refugee settlement. The research was carried out in Nakivale refugee settlement Isingiro district in South -West Uganda. The study was qualitative in nature and employed a case study research design. The respondents were identified through sampling technique from the orientation camp in Nakivale refugee settlement. Based on the rational choice theory, the relevant data and responses to research questions were collected from the respondents through personal contact method.

The findings from the study established that there were major language problems that crippled the possibility of negotiation and dialogue in the settlement camps. It was evident that there was a communication problem between the different national ethnic groups who were contacted in the settlement. The lack of commonality in language among the different national ethnic groups was found to be a significant cause of the tensions in the settlement camp.

The study concludes that language is fundamental in ensuring that peaceful coexistence in any multi-tribal society is maintained. The findings of the study demonstrate that there is need for the inclusion of a communication strategy in the policies, and their implementation in the process of enhancing joint development among refugees and their hosts. The simple integration of services cannot be substituted for careful planning, coordination, and monitoring of the social and economic integration of the concerned communities.