

# The Making of an Online Dictionary for Low- Resourced Languages: The Case of Oro

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## Abstract

Dictionaries are indispensable tools in linguistic studies and community language maintenance. They play a crucial role in education, language preservation, and standardization. In today's digital age, online dictionaries offer a more interactive and enriched learning experience compared to traditional printed versions. This paper details the development process of an online dictionary for Oro, a language spoken in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Through qualitative descriptive methods, data was collected from native speakers, transcribed, translated, and supplemented with audio and visual aids. The dictionary was constructed on the Living Dictionaries platform, a web portal dedicated to preserving endangered languages. The study reveals that modern digital resources enable linguists and communities to create online dictionaries at minimal cost, contributing to the survival and promotion of Oro and serving as a blueprint for other minority languages.

Keywords: Online dictionary, Living Dictionary, Lexicography, Low – resourced, Oro

## 1. Introduction

Dictionaries are universally recognized linguistic resources, whether in the form of physical books or digital applications (Gauton, 2008). They provide valuable insights into word meanings, spellings, pronunciations, and usage. While dictionaries were traditionally confined to print, technological advancements, especially the internet, have revolutionized their format to include electronic and web-based versions. The shift towards electronic dictionaries has been driven by their convenience, accessibility, and multimedia features. For instance, the integration of audio pronunciations and visual illustrations enhances the learning experience, particularly for learners of lesser-known languages (Dziemianko, 2022). This study focuses on the development of an online dictionary for Oro, filling a significant gap in its lexicographical resources. The absence of a comprehensive dictionary for Oro, whether in print or electronic form, underscores the pioneering nature of this project in documenting the language digitally.

The field of lexicography, the practice of compiling and editing dictionaries, has evolved significantly over time. Traditionally, dictionaries were static

printed volumes, but the digital era has ushered in dynamic and interactive online dictionaries. Major publishers like Oxford and Macmillan have transitioned to electronic-only editions due to the increasing demand for digital resources. While printed dictionaries remain relevant in areas with limited internet connectivity, electronic versions offer greater flexibility and functionality. The online dictionary of Oro represents a milestone in the digital documentation of the language, showcasing the potential for leveraging modern technology to preserve and promote minority languages. This project not only enhances access to linguistic resources but also serves as a valuable model for similar initiatives in other marginalized language communities.

## 2. Background on Lexicography

Lexicography, the art and science of dictionary-making, occupies a unique space in linguistics. Dictionaries serve different roles in descriptive, documentary, and applied linguistics. For example, in descriptive linguistics, dictionaries play a crucial role in capturing the vocabulary and structure of a language at a specific point in time. Documentary

linguistics, on the other hand, uses dictionaries to document endangered languages and preserve their linguistic heritage for future generations. In applied linguistics, dictionaries are essential tools for language learning and teaching.

While some scholars consider lexicography a subfield of applied linguistics, others argue for its recognition as an independent discipline. The debate around its classification highlights the diverse perspectives within the field. Regardless of classification, its central role in language preservation is undeniable. Lexicographers are tasked with not only documenting words and their meanings but also tracing the evolution of language over time (Bergenholtz and Gouws, 2012).

Historically, dictionaries were constructed from manual word lists, a labour-intensive process that limited the scope and depth of entries. However, the late twentieth century witnessed a paradigm shift with the incorporation of computational methods and corpora. Corpus lexicography, which relies on vast bodies of authentic language data, has revolutionized dictionary-making for major world languages (Burkhanov, 1998). This shift has enabled lexicographers to capture a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of language usage and meaning.

Despite the advancements in corpus lexicography, many African languages, such as Nigerian languages, have been largely excluded from this development. The lack of resources and infrastructure poses significant challenges for the documentation and preservation of these languages. Efforts to bridge this gap and support the lexicographic work in African languages are crucial for promoting linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Another significant milestone in lexicography is the emergence of electronic lexicography, which harnesses computer and internet technologies to design, publish, and disseminate dictionaries. Online dictionaries, mobile applications, and talking dictionaries represent the latest trends in dictionary-making (Uguru and Okeke, 2020). Talking dictionaries, particularly valuable for endangered languages, provide users with spoken

pronunciations, aiding in the acquisition of phonological systems that may be challenging to learn solely through written forms.

Lexicography continues to evolve with technological advancements, expanding its reach and impact in linguistics. The intersection of traditional dictionary-making practices with modern tools and methods has paved the way for a more comprehensive and accessible understanding of language. As we navigate the complexities of language preservation and documentation, lexicography remains a vital field that bridges the past with the future of linguistic research and study.

### 3. Theoretical Considerations

The framework that guided this project is Kenneth Rehg's (2018) practical model for compiling dictionaries of endangered languages. This framework outlines five stages: research, planning, design and construction, distribution and support, and attention to legal and ethical issues. Dictionaries of endangered languages must provide orthographic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic information in ways that are accessible to both scholars and community members.

Rehg's model emphasizes the integration of linguistic subfields in dictionary-making. For instance, spellings reflect orthography, pronunciation guides capture phonology, parts of speech mark syntax, and definitions address semantics. Applying this holistic perspective ensures that dictionaries are not merely word lists but comprehensive linguistic resources.

In the research stage, scholars delve into the language's history, usage, and cultural significance. For example, they may study ancient texts, conduct interviews with native speakers, and analyze language variation across different regions. This foundational research informs the planning stage, where decisions are made regarding the dictionary's scope, target audience, and format.

The design and construction phase involves creating the actual dictionary structure, deciding on entry formats, and organizing the information in a user-friendly manner. This may involve developing software tools for data entry and retrieval, designing

the layout of the dictionary entries, and ensuring cross-referencing for easy navigation.

Distribution and support are crucial aspects of dictionary-making, as ensuring accessibility to the target audience is essential for the dictionary's impact. This may involve publishing the dictionary in various formats, such as print, online, or mobile applications, and providing training and support to users on how to effectively utilize the resource.

Finally, attention to legal and ethical issues is paramount in the creation of dictionaries of endangered languages. Respect for intellectual property rights, consent from language communities, and ethical considerations in data collection and dissemination are all vital aspects that must be carefully addressed throughout the dictionary-making process. Overall, Rehg's model provides a comprehensive and systematic approach to creating dictionaries that serve both scholarly and community needs.

#### **4. The Ọrọ People and Language**

The Ọrọ people, a community of over 400,000 individuals as per the 2006 census, reside in five distinct local government areas within Akwa Ibom State, namely Oron, Mbo, Okobo, Udung Uko, and Urue Offong-Uruko. Their lifestyle is deeply rooted in coastal activities such as fishing, farming, and the craft of boat building. Through oral traditions, it is believed that the Ọrọ people share ancestral ties with Bantu groups from Cameroon, tracing back to migrations spanning the 11th to 15th centuries.

From a linguistic perspective, the Ọrọ language is classified under the Lower Cross division of the Niger-Congo family. The orthography of Ọrọ, devised by Golden Ekpo, utilizes a 32-letter alphabet derived from the Latin script. Phonetically, the language comprises 44 phonemes, encompassing 25 consonants and 19 vowels, including intricate diphthongs. Notably, Ọrọ is tonal in nature, employing various tones such as high, low, rising, falling, and downstepped tones to convey nuanced lexical and grammatical distinctions (Ekpo, 2022).

In comparison to its neighboring languages like Ibibio and Efik, Ọrọ remains relatively under-documented, particularly in the realm of

lexicography. The absence of comprehensive dictionaries poses challenges for both academic exploration and community literacy initiatives, emphasizing the critical importance of concerted efforts to address this gap. Expanding research and resources dedicated to documenting and preserving the richness of the Ọrọ language is vital for promoting cultural heritage and linguistic diversity within the region.

#### **5. Online Dictionaries and the Living Dictionaries Platform**

The Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, founded in 2005, stands as a beacon of hope in the realm of preserving and revitalizing endangered languages across the globe. A noteworthy contribution to this cause is the Living Dictionaries platform, which emerged in 2007 as an innovative, community-driven digital tool that is freely accessible to all. This platform serves as a virtual space where both linguists and individuals not specialized in linguistics can collaboratively develop bilingual or multilingual dictionaries that incorporate audio recordings and visual aids.

With a collection exceeding 140 dictionaries, the Living Dictionaries platform encompasses a diverse range of languages, including various Nigerian languages like Ibibio, Igbo, Olùkùmi, Owé, Tiv, and Yorùbá. Notably absent from this platform was the language of Ọrọ, which has now been rectified through the creation of the Ọrọ dictionary. This addition not only broadens the representation of African languages on the platform but also provides the Ọrọ community with a valuable digital tool for language preservation and learning. This expansion signifies a step forward in ensuring the richness and diversity of languages are safeguarded for future generations.

#### **6. Methodology**

The study utilized a qualitative descriptive design, a research approach that aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of a particular phenomenon. In this case, data were gathered primarily through elicitation, a method that involves direct engagement with native speakers. The use of

the Swadesh wordlist, which was customized by the Nigerian Languages Project to better suit Nigerian languages, played a crucial role in the lexical selection process. This wordlist served as a foundation, ensuring that a wide range of vocabulary was included in the study. Additionally, researchers incorporated words from various semantic domains such as kinship terms, flora and fauna, body parts, numerals, and daily activities. By including these diverse categories, the researchers were able to compile a list of over 300 entries, enriching the dataset and capturing the complexity of the language. In terms of sampling, the researchers adopted a systematic approach to ensure representativeness and diversity in their data collection. This involved carefully selecting participants from different age groups, regions, and socio-economic backgrounds to obtain a comprehensive view of the language usage.

### 6.1 Sampling

Given the impracticality of engaging the entire Oꝛo-speaking population, purposive and snowball sampling methods were applied. Dr. Golden Ekpo, a native speaker and linguist, served as lead consultant. Two other native speakers, both university students in their twenties, also served as co-consultants. These sampling methods were chosen to ensure a representative sample of the Oꝛo-speaking community without having to involve every single individual. Dr. Ekpo's expertise and connections within the community were instrumental in facilitating the research process. The co-consultants, being young university students, brought a fresh perspective to the data collection process. Their involvement added depth and diversity to the research findings. In addition to their linguistic knowledge, they also provided insights based on their experiences and interactions within the community. This collaborative approach enriched the data collection process and contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the Oꝛo-speaking population.

### 6.2 Data Collection Tools

**Wavepad:** Used to digitally record pronunciations of words in WAV format.

**Semdom:** SIL's online resource for semantic domains, used to classify entries.

**Living Dictionaries Web Portal:** The platform where the dictionary was built, organized, and made accessible. The link to the dictionary is [www.livingdictionaries.app](http://www.livingdictionaries.app).

### 6.3 Data Processing

Each word was meticulously entered into the portal with a wealth of accompanying metadata to enhance the user experience. This metadata included essential details such as the headword, English translation, part of speech, semantic domain, phonetic transcription, and example sentences. The inclusion of such comprehensive information aimed to facilitate a deeper understanding of the vocabulary being presented. In instances where lexical gaps were identified, explanatory definitions were thoughtfully provided to bridge any potential comprehension barriers. Furthermore, to enrich the learning process, culturally appropriate images were strategically incorporated to visually depict the meaning of the words. Additionally, recorded audio files were seamlessly integrated to offer users an authentic pronunciation guide, ensuring accurate verbal representation.

### 7. Dictionary Construction Process

The process of setting up the Oro dictionary page on the Living Dictionaries platform began with the creation of a user account. This step allowed for the input of essential metadata such as alternative names like Oꝛo and Oron, the ISO code (orx), the Glottocode (oroo1241), and geographic coordinates. These details provided a comprehensive overview of the Oro language within the platform. Entries were meticulously input using the standardized Oꝛo orthography, ensuring accuracy and consistency. Special attention was devoted to diacritics and tone marks, crucial elements that differentiate words with the same orthographic form but varying meanings.

For instance, the inclusion of tone marks in words like "oḷo"(meaning "house") versus "oḷo"(meaning "to roll") exemplifies the importance of these linguistic nuances.

Moreover, the platform's design facilitated the accommodation of variants and synonyms. Alternative spellings, such as "Abazi"and "Abasi"both referring to "God,"were included in the designated spelling box to capture the language's diverse expressions. Synonyms like "nkini"and "oyin,"both translating to "eye,"were entered as separate headwords but interconnected through cross-references in the notes section for enhanced accessibility and comprehension.

In addition to inputting entries, the process also delved into categorizing words based on their parts of speech. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and other grammatical categories were systematically identified and labeled within the dictionary, providing users with a structured understanding of the Oṛo language's linguistic components

### 7.1 Parts of Speech

Each entry was meticulously labeled with an appropriate part of speech, carefully chosen from the portal's extensive array of options. This thoughtful categorization not only facilitated comprehension for learners and users but also shed light on the intricate grammatical nuances of words. For instance, a noun tag would highlight the naming aspect of a word, while a verb tag would emphasize the action or state conveyed. This detailed tagging system served as a beacon of clarity in the vast sea of linguistic knowledge, guiding individuals towards a deeper understanding of language structure and usage.

Moreover, the system extended its functionality to encompass semantic domains, further enriching the learning experience. By delving into semantic domains, learners were able to explore the interconnected web of meanings that words inhabit. For example, within the semantic domain of "food,"one could encounter a plethora of related terms like "nutrition,""cooking,"and "recipes,"each contributing to a holistic understanding of the overarching concept. This exploration not only

broadened vocabulary but also provided insights into the subtle nuances and connotations that words carry within specific contexts.

In essence, the meticulous tagging of parts of speech and the exploration of semantic domains transformed the learning process into a dynamic and engaging journey of discovery. It illuminated the intricate tapestry of language, empowering users to navigate its complexities with confidence and insight.

### 7.2 Semantic Domains

Semantic domains played a vital role in structuring the dictionary and shedding light on the meaning of words. For instance, when we consider the word "egbo"meaning masquerade, it was categorized under both "Spirituality/Religion"and "Cultural Practices"in the dictionary. This classification highlighted the profound significance of "egbo" in Oṛo society, emphasizing its spiritual and cultural importance beyond mere entertainment value. By organizing words into semantic domains, the dictionary was able to offer a deeper understanding of the cultural context in which these terms operate. This contextual depth not only facilitated comprehension but also enriched the overall learning experience.

In practical terms, the inclusion of semantic domains allowed users of the dictionary to explore the multifaceted meanings of words like "egbo"within specific cultural frameworks. For example, by understanding that egbo is not just a form of entertainment but a sacred tradition with symbolic significance, individuals could appreciate its role in traditional ceremonies and rituals. This added layer of information not only expanded their knowledge but also fostered a deeper connection to the cultural heritage embedded in the language.

Moreover, the use of semantic domains in the dictionary served as a bridge between language and culture, enabling users to grasp the nuances of words in their proper context. By organizing words based on thematic categories like "Spirituality/Religion"and "Cultural Practices,"the dictionary encouraged a holistic approach to language learning that went beyond mere

translation. This holistic approach encouraged users to delve into the rich tapestry of meanings woven into each word, fostering a more profound appreciation for the linguistic and cultural diversity encapsulated in the dictionary.

In conclusion, semantic domains proved to be invaluable tools for enhancing the depth and richness of the dictionary. By categorizing words according to their cultural and thematic significance, the dictionary not only facilitated understanding but also encouraged a more profound engagement with the language and culture it represented. Through the inclusion of semantic domains, the dictionary became more than just a collection of words; it became a gateway to a world of meaning and tradition waiting to be explored.

### 7.3 Notes and Example Sentences

The notes field served as a valuable tool for expanding on the cultural or contextual meanings of various entries. It allowed for a deeper understanding of the nuances behind certain terms. For instance, it was used to clarify that *Égbó* is not just a costumed festival but holds significant importance as a sacred institution within the *Oro* culture. By providing explanations like these, the notes field enhanced the richness of the entries. Moreover, example sentences were thoughtfully included to demonstrate how each word is used in real-life contexts. These sentences were not only informative but also made the entries more relatable and practical. To ensure inclusivity and accessibility, all example sentences were thoughtfully translated into English. This attention to detail and thoroughness in providing context truly elevated the quality of the entries. In addition, the presence of illustrations further complemented the text, offering visual aids to reinforce understanding. Through these visual representations, complex concepts were made more digestible and engaging for readers.

### 7.4 Illustrations

Visual illustrations were a pivotal addition to the entries to enhance the learning experience. These illustrations were strategically incorporated, especially for concrete nouns, to provide a visual aid

for better understanding. For instance, including images of African lips for the term "mkpoñ inue"(lip) and local masquerade photos for "egbo"not only ensured cultural accuracy but also significantly boosted learner comprehension.

By incorporating culturally relevant images, learners were able to connect more deeply with the material, making the learning process more engaging and effective. This approach not only enriched the content but also catered to the diverse learning styles of individuals. Additionally, it fostered a sense of inclusivity by showcasing various cultural elements, thereby promoting a more holistic learning environment.

Moreover, the inclusion of 7.5 audio pronunciations further enhanced the learning experience. Hearing the correct pronunciation of terms allowed learners to develop their auditory skills and improve their language proficiency. This multi-sensory approach not only catered to different learning preferences but also reinforced memory retention.

### 7.5 Audio Pronunciations

Audio files were integrated for each entry using the voices of native speakers. This integration of audio recordings, captured in WAV format, proved to be highly beneficial for learners seeking to improve their pronunciation skills. By providing authentic models of pronunciation, these audio examples offer a direct and intuitive way of learning correct pronunciations. For instance, a learner studying Spanish can listen to a native speaker pronounce words like "gracias"or "adiós"to grasp the proper intonation and accent.

Unlike phonetic transcriptions, which may seem complex and unfamiliar to non-linguists, audio examples are more accessible and user-friendly. They allow learners to hear the nuances of pronunciation that cannot be fully conveyed through phonetic symbols. Additionally, audio recordings can capture the rhythm and melody of a language, aiding learners in mastering the natural cadence of speech.

In essence, the incorporation of audio files in language learning materials enhances the overall learning experience by providing a multisensory

approach to pronunciation practice. Through listening to native speakers, learners can improve their speaking skills, develop a better ear for accents, and gain confidence in their ability to communicate effectively in a foreign language.

### **8. Ethical and Copyright Considerations**

Ethical responsibility was at the core of the project, emphasizing the importance of respecting the rights and dignity of all involved parties. Informed consent, a fundamental ethical principle, was diligently obtained from each language consultant. This process involved comprehensive explanations, both verbally and in written form, to ensure that consultants fully understood the implications of their participation. For example, detailed consent forms were provided, outlining the project's objectives, potential risks, and the intended use of consultants' contributions.

Moreover, consultants were explicitly informed that their voices and names would be publicly showcased on the online platform, underscoring the need for transparency and accountability. This open communication fostered trust and mutual understanding between the researchers and the consultants, laying a solid foundation for collaboration. Additionally, community involvement was a pivotal aspect of the project, with the Orq Advancement Society playing a crucial role in endorsing and overseeing the project's activities.

The ownership of the dictionary was rightfully attributed to the researcher, while due recognition was accorded to the consultants as valuable contributors. This acknowledgment not only honoured the consultants' expertise and efforts but also highlighted the importance of collaborative partnerships in academic endeavours. Such transparency and recognition of individual contributions were essential in ensuring that the project adhered to both academic rigor and community values, thereby upholding the highest standards of integrity and respect for all involved stakeholders.

### **9. Distribution and Support**

Once the process of compiling the dictionary was successfully completed, the decision was made to make it accessible to the public with the approval of various community stakeholders who had been involved in its creation. This marked a significant milestone in the project, as it meant that the valuable resource could now be freely accessed by anyone with an internet connection through the platform known as Living Dictionaries. This open access feature was designed to ensure that the dictionary could reach a wide audience and serve as a beneficial tool for language learners, researchers, and community members alike.

In addition to online access, the platform also offered the option for users to download the dictionary entries in PDF format. This feature was particularly important for communities with limited internet connectivity, as it allowed them to access the information offline by printing the entries into a physical book form. By providing this offline accessibility, the platform aimed to ensure that the dictionary could still be utilized in environments where internet access was scarce or unreliable.

Moreover, the platform went a step further by offering various export options for the dictionary entries, including audio and images, in CSV format. This level of flexibility was intended to support the integration of the dictionary data into other databases or future projects, thereby expanding its utility beyond just a learning resource. By enabling such diverse export options, the platform positioned the dictionary as not only a tool for language learning but also as a foundation for further linguistic research and community education initiatives. This multi-faceted approach aimed to maximize the impact and reach of the dictionary, making it a valuable resource for a wide range of users and purposes.

### **10. Findings and Contributions**

The project showcases the transformative power of modern digital tools in the realm of linguistics and community engagement. By leveraging these tools, linguists and communities can now create high-quality dictionaries with minimal financial resources. A simple smartphone and basic internet

connection are all that's needed to craft a comprehensive talking and illustrated dictionary, marking a significant shift in the field of lexicography. This newfound accessibility democratizes the process, opening doors for smaller communities that previously lacked the means to embark on such endeavors.

One exemplary case is the Ọrọ dictionary, which addresses a crucial gap in the documentation of Lower Cross languages. This dictionary serves as a valuable resource for learners, offering a structured vocabulary that supports language acquisition and aids second language learners and diaspora members. Furthermore, the global impact of the Ọrọ dictionary cannot be understated, as it contributes to the broader visibility and recognition of the Ọrọ language on a worldwide scale.

## 11. Discussion

The development of an online dictionary for Ọrọ not only signifies the increasing significance of electronic lexicography in the realm of African language studies but also serves as a pivotal tool in preserving and promoting linguistic diversity. This digital resource goes beyond the mere provision of definitions, pronunciations, and translations; it delves deeper into the cultural nuances and intricacies of Ọrọ, offering users a comprehensive understanding of the language. For instance, the dictionary may include examples of how certain words are used in everyday conversations, shedding light on their practical applications.

Moreover, by incorporating information on cultural practices, tones, and authentic learning experiences, this online dictionary becomes a gateway to immersing oneself in the richness of Ọrọ language and culture. It not only serves as a reference tool but also as a platform for cultural exchange and appreciation. In a broader context, African languages like Ọrọ face the challenge of maintaining relevance and visibility in a digital world dominated by global languages like English and French. The creation of online dictionaries for these languages is a proactive step towards asserting their linguistic presence and ensuring their continued vitality.

Linguists and language enthusiasts play a crucial role in this endeavor by dedicating their expertise to the preservation and promotion of African languages. Through resources like the online dictionary for Ọrọ, they empower communities to embrace their linguistic heritage and pass it on to future generations. These digital initiatives not only bridge the gap between traditional language learning methods and modern technological advancements but also serve as a beacon of hope for the preservation of linguistic diversity in an increasingly interconnected world.

## 12. Challenges Encountered

Despite the success of the project, several challenges were encountered:

One of the technical issues faced was the difficulty in typing tone marks and diacritics due to the lack of standardized Ọrọ keyboard software. Moreover, lexical gaps posed another challenge as some culture-specific terms lacked direct English equivalents. For example, the term "egbo" which refers to a specific cultural event in the Ọrọ tradition, required detailed explanations and descriptions to convey its full meaning in English.

Additionally, sourcing culturally relevant images was a time-consuming task that added to the project's challenges. Finding high-quality photos that accurately represented the cultural context and themes of the project required extensive research and careful selection.

Furthermore, unstable internet connectivity occasionally slowed down the uploading process, causing delays and disruptions in sharing project updates and resources.

In light of these challenges, it is essential to address each issue systematically and implement solutions to improve the overall project experience and outcomes. By investing in better keyboard software, providing comprehensive glossaries for culture-specific terms, refining translation processes, streamlining image sourcing methods, and ensuring stable internet access, future projects can overcome these obstacles and achieve even greater success.

## 13. Recommendations

- i. Development of customized Ọrọ keyboard software to ease typing of tone marks.
  - ii. Expansion of the dictionary to include more lexical items and semantic domains.
  - iii. Training programs for community members to continue updating and managing the dictionary.
  - iv. Collaboration with local schools to integrate the dictionary into language learning curricula.
- Government and NGO support for similar projects in other minority languages.

#### 14. Conclusion

The creation of an online talking and illustrated dictionary of Ọrọ marks a significant milestone in the documentation and preservation of the language. This innovative project showcases the intersection of technology, community collaboration, and linguistic expertise. Through the utilization of advanced technological tools, such as interactive audio features and visual aids, users can engage with the language in a dynamic and immersive way. Additionally, the involvement of the community in contributing to the dictionary ensures a diverse range of perspectives and insights are included. This collaborative effort not only enriches the content but also fosters a sense of ownership and pride among speakers of Ọrọ.

By embracing digital representation, this dictionary breaks barriers and showcases the richness of Ọrọ to a global audience. It serves as a valuable learning resource for language learners, educators, and researchers alike. Moreover, it functions as a cultural archive, preserving the heritage and traditions embedded within the language. For example, the inclusion of folk tales, proverbs, and traditional songs provides a glimpse into the cultural fabric of the Ọrọ-speaking community. This ensures that the language remains vibrant and relevant for present and future generations to explore and appreciate.

In essence, the online dictionary of Ọrọ goes beyond mere words on a screen; it encapsulates the essence and spirit of a language deeply rooted in history and tradition. By embracing digital tools and community collaboration, this project exemplifies how minority languages can thrive in the digital age. It stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of languages, showcasing their ability to evolve and remain relevant in an ever-changing world. As we navigate the complexities of a modern society, projects like this serve as beacons of cultural preservation and linguistic diversity, ensuring that the voices of all languages, no matter how small, are heard and celebrated.

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