Pedagogical Grammar Proposal for the Garifuna Nation

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The Garifuna Nation is an afro-indigenous ethnic group that can be found throughout Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the island of St. Vincent. This project outlines the findings of the status and community efforts towards the revitalization of Garifuna language in the Southern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, specifically the town of Orinoco. While there are an estimated 100,000 speakers of Garifuna across the world, there are currently only two fluent speakers in Orinoco, both of whom are elderly. While Garifuna language classes are given at the Manuel Mongalo Elementary School, language education is not provided to those who are not enrolled in school.

This project reports on community demands towards the implementation of a language program for the adults of the community who may not have the opportunity to learn the language otherwise. In order to meet the community demands and needs, this project draws from two approaches: a comparison between other indigenous language revitalization efforts throughout Latin America and the United States and the development of a Pedagogical Grammar for Garifuna, the latter of which aids adult learners with second language acquisition. I construct this project with the purpose of proposing an accessible pathway to the revitalization and conservation of Garifuna language and Garifuna culture in a multilingual region.