

**A Sociolinguistic Study of Kanuri *Sangaya* Register**

**By**

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Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Linguistics)**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby assert that this thesis entitled “A Sociolinguistic Study of Kanuri *Sangaya* Register” is my original work. The work has been accomplished as a result of the field research conducted in Borno and Yobe States, under the supervision and guidance of Professor Mukhtar A. Yusuf.

I further make this solemn declaration conscientiously that, to the best of my ability and knowledge, all the materials, sources, persons and *Sangaya* centres for Qur’anic teaching and learning have been duly acknowledged.

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## CERTIFICATION

I Professor Mukhtar A. Yusuf certify that this thesis entitled “A Sociolinguistic Study of Kanuri *Sangaya* Register” has been duly presented by Tahir Abba (SPS/13/PLG/00001) of Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies, Bayero University, Kano.

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## APPROVAL PAGE

This research work entitled “A Sociolinguistic Study of Kanuri *Sangaya* Register” has been read and approved as meeting the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Linguistics) in the Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Bayero University, Kano.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my wife Ya Gambo and our children

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## ABSTRACT

This research work entitled “A Sociolinguistic Study of Kanuri *Sangaya* Register” addressed not only sociolinguistic reconstructions of *Sangaya* registers in the conversational discourse, but social indices variably marked by different groups and the role of the variables used in social interactions. The prevalent use of the specialized speech activities in the *Sangaya* School to achieve communicative and discursive function has been the central motivation for this research. The designed objectives of the research work have addressed the sociolinguistic variables of the *Sangaya* registers. It has also been observed that the linguistic varieties used in *Sangaya* were considered to be registers in their own rights. The data were collected through interactions, discussions and oral interviews. Therefore the methodology and theoretical approach used in this work is the *eclectic* approach to the analytical engagement of the *Sangaya* registers as a basis in bringing out the meaning and function of the language from different aspects of field, mode and tenor (Halliday 1990). This situation, called for the use of the *eclectic* and multidisciplinary approach to the analysis. It has relied on the series of operations involved in social and linguistic forms of the Kanuri *Sangaya* discourse. The research revealed that, *Sangaya* as a centre for Qur’anic recitation and memorization is the bedrock for the register reconstruction which is sourced and formed by the conversational and discourses of the *Sangaya* participants. The research has also discovered some situational variables as markers of the registers,

such as participants' social identity, purpose of communication, speakers' choice of language, and cultural context determines the functions of the utterance. Similarly, the study revealed that, the professional network of the scholarly esoteric understanding of the *Sangaya* discourse has made a pragmatic significance in many perspectives. Moreover, *Sangaya* discourse is used in form of jokes and humour. The jocular and humorous behaviour of the participants are not unconnected with their life style and sense of belonging to the particular kind of profession. In the discourse situation, the study found that the participants' expressive linguistic capacities guaranteed the generation and application of certain linguistic and social elements used intermittently in their discourse. This linguistic repertoire has singled them out and socially proved that they could manipulate the Qur'anic texts to meet their communicative functions.