

IBIBIO

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

“Ibio-ibio” means “short” or “brief” and doesn’t have anything to do with height of the Ibibios. The name was given due to the ibibios quick way of doing things. They Ibibio are related to the Anaang and the Efikpeople.

During colonial period in Nigeria, the Ibibio Union asked for recognition by the British as a sovereign nation (Noah, 1988). The Annang, Efi k, Eki d, Oron and Ibeno share personal names, culture, and traditions with the Ibibio, and speak closely related varieties of Ibibio-Efi k. The indigenes who have not migrated to the city are mainly cultivators of yams, cassava, and also palm oil and palm kernels. They are noted for their skillful wood carving.

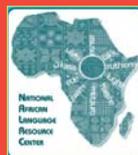
Prior to the present-day Nigeria they were many Ibibio tribes speaking dialects of Ibibio language having different tribe heads.

Fastforward to today, due to their larger population, they hold political control over Akwa-Ibom State, but government is shared with the Anaangs, Eket and Oron. The Political system follows the traditional method of consensus.

STUDYING IBIBIO IN THE UNITED STATES

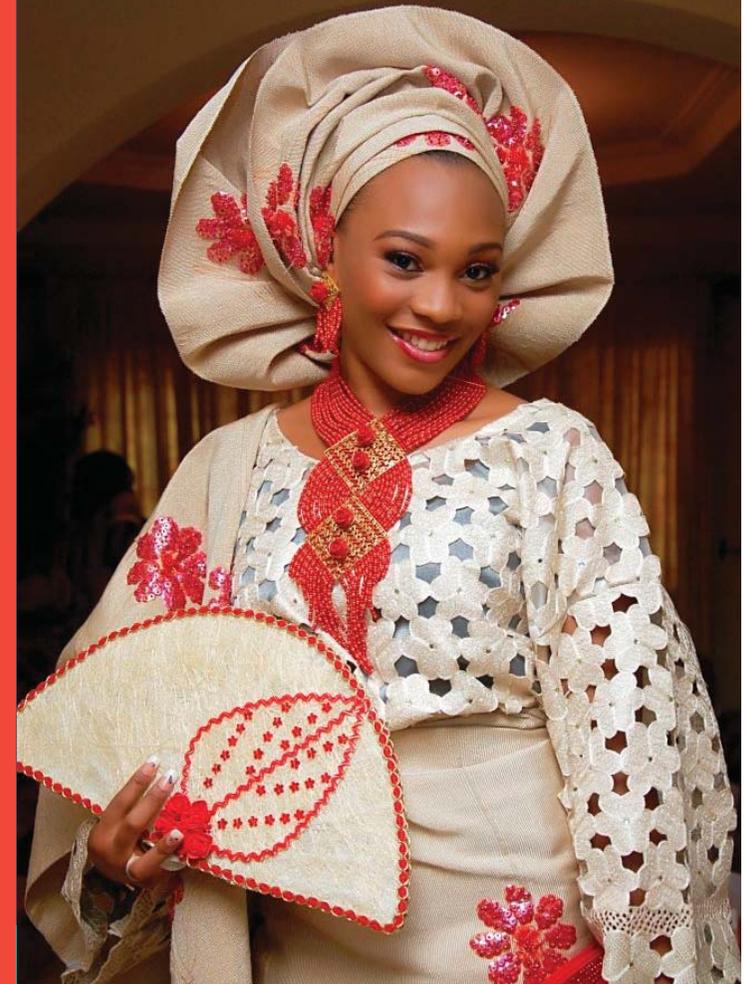
Please contact the National African Language Resource Center, or check the NALRC web site at

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IBIBIO WOMAN

NATIONAL AFRICAN LANGUAGE
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WHO SPEAKS IBIBIO

Ibibio are mostly in Southeastern Nigeria, predominately in Akwa Ibom state and is made up of the related Anaang community, Ibibio community and the Eket and the Oron Communities; although other groups usually understand the Ibibio language. Prior to the existence of Nigeria as a Nation, the Ibibio people were self-governed. The Ibibio people became a part of Eastern Nigeria of Nigeria under British colonial rule. During the Nigerian Civil War, Eastern region was split into three states. Southeastern State later renamed Cross-River state, out of which present day Akwa-ibom state was carved out of the Nigeria was where the Ibibios were located, one of the original twelve states of Nigeria after independence.



Ibibio bride looking fresh after Mbopo ritual

WHY STUDY IBIBIO

Ibibio have lived in the Cross River area of modern day Nigeria for several hundred years, and while written information about them only exists in colonial records from the late 1800s on, oral traditions have them in the region much earlier than this. The Ibibio actively resisted colonial invasions, and it was not until after the end of World War I that the British were able to gain a strong foothold in the region. Studying the Ibibio Language will create a communication channel between the speaker of the language and the indigenes of the Ibibio community.

It will be interesting to know the tribe's culture and way of life dating back hundreds of years, how they were faring as a community before western civilization came in. Other attractions are the masks and accouterments of the "Ekpo society" which make up the greatest works of art in Ibibio society. Drumming and music are also important elements in Ekpe ceremonies.



Ibibio cultural dancers from Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria



Ibibio kids from Akwa Ibom state



Ibibio man and his wife, Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria



Mboho Mkarawa Ibibio | Eket Chapter



Ibibio cultural troupe