

The Art of Teaching Tongues

Deborah Idowu
University of Florida

Follow this and additional works at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/vernacular>



Part of the [Language and Literacy Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Idowu, Deborah () "The Art of Teaching Tongues," *Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/vernacular/vol10/iss1/1>

This article is brought to you freely and openly by Volunteer, Open-access, Library-hosted Journals (VOL Journals), published in partnership with The University of Tennessee (UT) University Libraries. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture by an authorized editor. For more information, please visit <https://trace.tennessee.edu/vernacular>.

The Art of Teaching Tongues

Cover Page Footnote

Acknowledgments This poem was inspired by my experiences teaching the French language. Special thanks to Elizabeth Ziffer for her valuable feedback on early drafts.

The Art of Teaching Tongues

I am the keeper of the golden keys
That unlock words beyond the seas,
A guide through linguistic mysteries,
Leading learners with gentle ease.

Like a shepherd tending to the flock,
Or smiths who shape the stubborn rock,
I mold raw sounds to beauty's form
Till foreign words feel their norm.

With tools of wisdom tried and true,
I build their grammar phrase by phrase,
Create word-families, bright and new,
Till confidence begins to blaze.

Each time they speak, my heart takes wing,
For teaching is my offering—
A bridge across the shores of speech
Where minds connect and borders breach.

Through guided practice, day by day,
I watch their progress on display,
As vocabulary blooms and grows,
And understanding freely flows.

This is my mission, this my art:
To help new languages take part
In lives that yearn to understand
The voices of each distant land.