

Fig. 2.2: Language groups and migration routes in Kenya

Language groups in Eastern Africa

Do you remember countries making up Eastern Africa? They include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Rwanda and Burundi.

Language groups in Eastern Africa are:

- The Bantus
- The Cushites
- The Semites
- The Nilotes

a) Bantus

- Bantus are the largest language group in Eastern Africa.
- Their main economic activity was farming, as such they were in search of fertile lands to cultivate.
- The Bantus of eastern Africa are found in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Do you remember the Bantus of Kenya?
- The following table shows Bantu speakers of Eastern Africa.

Country	Bantus
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baganda • Banyankole • Batoro • Bachiga • Basoga • Banyoro • Bagisu
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wamakonde • Wazaramo • Nyankyusa • Wahehe • Wangoni • Yao • Wapare • Wasukuma • Wanyamwezi • Wachagga • Wafipa • Ha • Waluguru • Wagogo
Rwanda, Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutsi • Twala • Hutu

- Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia do not have original Bantus.

Origin and migration

The Bantus

- The Bantu of Eastern Africa originated from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- They followed the following routes:

a) **Route 1:** This is the route between Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika. Most of the communities who followed this route included Wachagga, Wapare, Wasukuma, Ha and Wanyamwezi

of Northern Tanzania. The Eastern Bantus of Kenya (both the coastal and central Bantus) also followed this route. Do you remember the Eastern Bantus of Kenya?

b) **Route 2:** This is the route between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi. Most of Bantus who followed this route settled in southern Tanzania. They include Wagogo, Yao, Wafipa, Wamakonde, Nyankyusa, Waluguru, Wahehe and Wazaramo. They settled in Central, Eastern and Western part of Tanzania.

c) **Route 3:** This is the route between Lake Edward and Albert. Most of Bantus who followed here settled in Uganda and Western parts of Kenya. They include Baganda, Banyankole, Batoro, Bachiga, Basoga, Banyoro and Bagisu of Uganda. The Western Bantus of Kenya also followed this route. Do you remember the western Bantus of Kenya?

d) **Route 4:** This is the route between the Indian Ocean and Lake Malawi. The Ngoni, who were escaping from being attacked by King Shaka of the Zulu people of South Africa, followed this route. They settled in the Tanzania Southern Highlands.

Reasons for migration

- The main reason why they migrated to Eastern Africa was that they were looking for fertile land to cultivate.
- To escape from civil war in their homeland.
- Climate change which led to drought drove them away from their original home.
- Rapid increase in the population resulted in pressure on land. They thus moved away in search of more spacious land.

- v) To flee from natural calamities such as disease outbreaks, earthquakes and floods.

The Nilotes

- The Nilotes originated from South Sudan.
- Nilotes in Eastern Africa are classified into three groups, namely:
 - (i) The Highland Nilotes (Kalenjin)
 - (ii) The Plain Nilotes
 - (iii) The River-Lake Nilotes

i) The Highland Nilotes

- In Kenya, the Highland Nilotes are the Kalenjins. Do you remember the communities that make up the Kalenjins of Kenya?
- In Uganda, we have the Sebei and Tatonga.
- Their main economic activity was pastoralism.
- They entered Kenya through the north, the region to the east of Lake Turkana.

i) River-Lake Nilotes

- River-Lake Nilotes in Eastern Africa include the Luo of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the Langi, Alur, Lwo, Acholi, Labwor and Jopadhola of Uganda and the Nuer, Anuak, Dinka and Shilluk of South Sudan.
- River-Lake Nilotes were mainly livestock keepers. The Luos were also fishermen.

i) Plains Nilotes

- Plain Nilotes in Eastern Africa include the the Madi, Iteso, Lugbara, Karamojong, Kumam of Uganda, Maasai also known as Wameeru or Waarusha of Tanzania and those in Kenya. Do you remember Plain Nilotes in Kenya?

- The main economic activity of the Nilotes was pastoralism. They were mainly nomadic. This means that they moved from place to place with their animals in search of pasture and water.

Reasons for migration

- i) The main reason why they migrated to Eastern Africa was that they were looking for water and pasture for their animals.
- ii) They were escaping from civil war in their homeland.
- iii) Climate change, which led to drought, drove them away from their original home.
- iv) There was rapid increase in the population. This resulted in pressure on land. They then moved away to look for a spacious place.
- v) They were running away from natural calamities such as disease outbreak, earthquakes and floods.

The Cushites

- They migrated from South Western parts of Asia.
- They entered Eastern Africa through the Horn of Africa.
- Cushites are divided into two groups, namely:
 - (i) Eastern Cushites
 - (ii) Southern Cushites
- The table below shows Cushites in Eastern Africa:

Country	Cushites	
	Eastern	Southern
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somali • Ogaden • Ajuran • Hawiye • Gurreh 	-

Tanzania		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandawe • Iraqw • Mbugu • Dahalo • Hawa • Sanye • Burungi • Aramanik.
Ethiopia	Ogaden Oromo (Galla) Afar Agew Konza Sindamo Beja Danakil	-
Eritrea	Danakil	
Dibouti	Afar Issa	

- Do you remember the Cushites of Kenya? They are also part of Cushites of Eastern Africa.
- Cushites were mainly nomadic pastoralists.

Reasons for migration

- Their main reason for migration to Eastern Africa was to look for water and pasture for their animals.
- To escape from civil war in their homeland.
- Climate change which led to drought drove them away from their original home.
- Rapid increase in the population. This resulted to pressure on the limited land. They then moved away to look for a spacious place.
- Natural calamities such as disease outbreak, earthquakes and floods.

The Semites

- They migrated from Arabia and other parts of Asia.
- Do you remember Semites in Kenya? The following table shows the main Semitic groups in Eastern Africa.

Country	Community
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falasha • Arabs • Tigreans • Amharans
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabs • Tigreans • Amharans
Eritrea and Djibouti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tigreans • Amharans
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabs
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nubians

- The main economic activities of the semites was trading.

Other people of Eastern Africa

- Many other people also live in many parts of Eastern Africa. They include Asians and Europeans.
- Asians found in Eastern Africa include Indians, Pakistanis, Japanese and Chinese.
- Europeans include the French, British, Italians and Germans.

Reasons for migration

- In search of business opportunities where they could trade.
 - Seeking employment opportunities or job transfers.
- Some came as tourists.

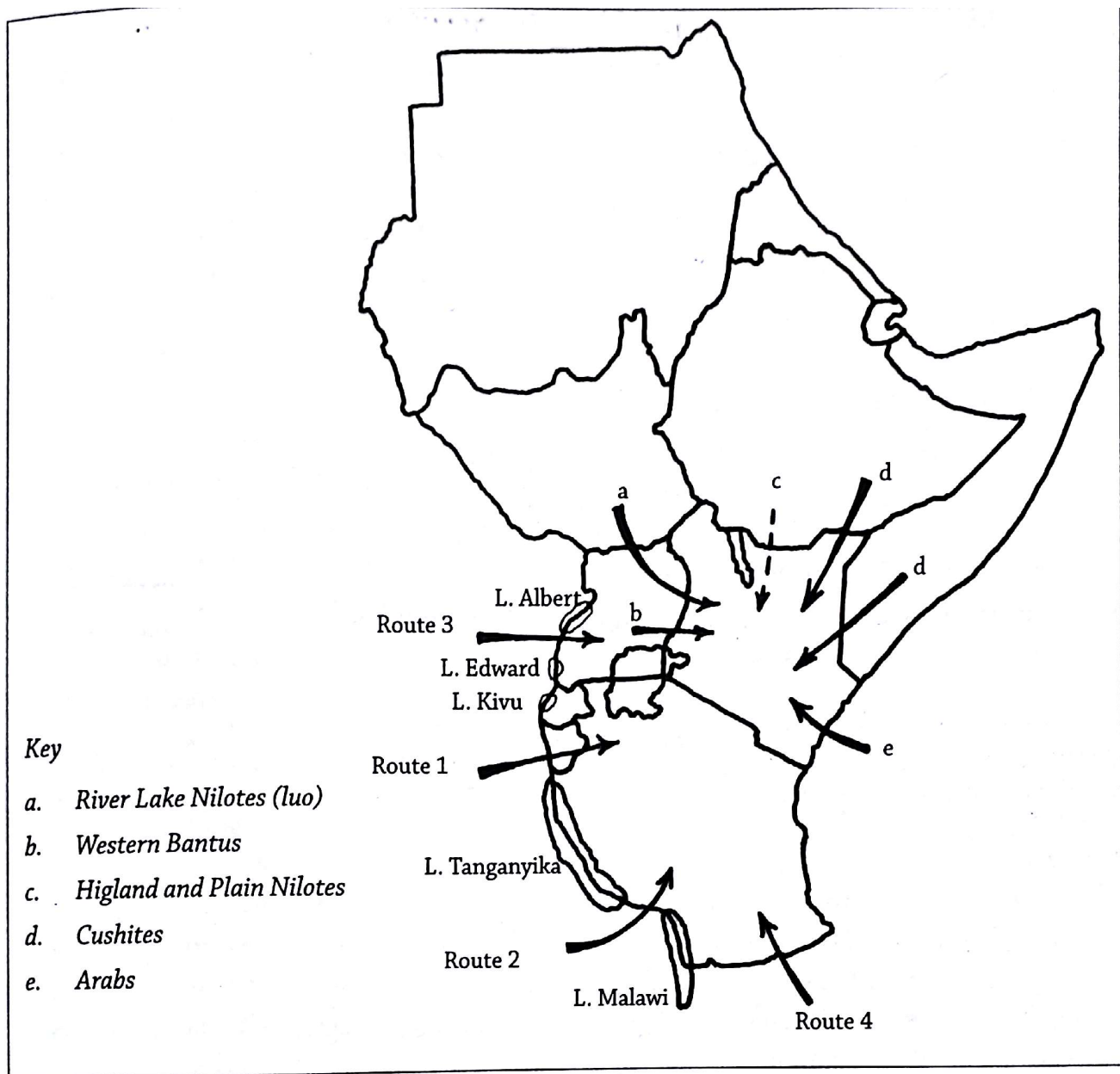


Fig 2.3: Migration routes of major language groups into Eastern Africa.

Major language groups in Africa

- People of Africa are grouped according to areas where they are found. Apart from Eastern Africa, which we have discussed, we have the following other regions in Africa:

- a) Northern Africa
- b) Southern Africa
- c) Central Africa
- d) Western Africa

(a) People of Northern Africa

- This region covers Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Western Sahara.

- This region is believed to have been occupied by Cushites as original inhabitants but the current inhabitants displaced them.
- The current inhabitants are Berbers, Arabs and Tuaregs.
- Berbers live in Tunisia, Morocco, Western Sahara, Libya and Algeria.
- Arabs live in Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Western Sahara. Arabs are believed to have migrated from Syria, Persia and Arabia.
- Their main economic activity is trading. They migrated into the region