

Round 2 2013

5. Playing the cognate game [15 marks]

Indonesian (*Bahasa Indonesia*) is an Austronesian language widely spoken as a first or second language throughout the countries of Indonesia and East Timor. It is closely related to Malay, which is spoken in Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. Swahili (*Kiswahili*) is a Bantu language spoken natively by many groups living on the coast of East Africa and as a second language throughout Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the Comoros, Mozambique, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These two languages are *lingua francas*, used for trade, business, and education among peoples with different mother tongues.

Though they originated on different continents and come from different language families, Indonesian and Swahili share a substantial amount of vocabulary, thanks primarily to loans from Arabic, but also from English, Portuguese, and German or Dutch. While many of these loans are related to commonly-loaned domains such as technology, religion, or animals (compare the Swahili word for “lion,” *simba*, with the Indonesian *singga*), some are for more everyday items such as “table” (Swahili *meza*, Indonesian *meja*, from the Portuguese *mesa*). Below are three tasks related to identifying Indonesian and Swahili cognates, but be careful: not everything is as it seems!

The following table contains a list of Indonesian sentences, and also a list of Swahili translations of these sentences, though not in the same order.

	Swahili		Indonesian
1	Aliniuza kitabu changu.	a	Bawakan saya buku-tulismu.
2	Dada wangu anajifunza kemia.	b	Bawalah buku-buku kalian ke sekolah.
3	Hijabu ya dada wangu ni rangi ya bluu.	c	Besok Anda ke Mesri.
4	Jana nilisoma biblia.	d	Di Bahasa Swahili Anda bisa berbicara apa kabar.
5	Katika Kiswahili unaweza kusema habari gani.	e	Dia menjual saya bukuku.
6	Kesho utakwenda Misri.	f	Hari ini hari kamis.
7	Kitongoji hiki ni salama.	g	Jilbab kakakku adalah biru.
8	Leo ni alhamisi.	h	Kakakku belajar kemia.
9	Leteni vitabu vyenu kwa shule.	i	Kemeja adikku adalah hijau.
10	Nilete daftari lako.	j	Kemejanya di pahanya.
11	Nina vitabu kuhusu Wayahudi.	k	Ketika kari jumat saya berdoa.
12	Ninajifunza biologia.	l	Lingkungan ini selamat.
13	Ninapenda bendera Kiholanzi.	m	Menurut daftarnya Anda miskin.
14	Ninasema Kiswahili.	n	Saya belajar biologi.
15	Orodha hii inasema kwa wewe ni meskini.	o	Saya bisa berbahasa Swahili.
16	Shati la kaka wangu ni rangi ya kijana.	p	Saya membaca al-kitab kemarin.
17	Shati lake ni juu ya paja lake.	q	Saya punya buku tentang Yahudi-Yahudi.
18	Siku za ijumaa ninaomba.	r	Saya suka bendera Belanda.
19	Sikuwa na wakati ijumaa.	s	Saya tidak punya waktu hari jumat.
20	Wilaya hizi ni salama.	t	Wilayah-wilayahnya selamat.

Questions

5.1. Match each English sentence in the table on the answer sheet with the number or letter of its Indonesian and Swahili translations.

5.2. There are a number of pairs of ‘misleading cognates’ (or ‘false friends’) – words in Indonesian and Swahili that have the same roots but have different meanings in English. Pick two such pairs, and say what they mean in English.

5.3. Translate the following sentences into Indonesian and Swahili:

1. I speak Hebrew.
2. I like my sister's shirt.
3. He sold me a flag.
4. Egypt is safe.
5. He sells me a headscarf.
6. Today I am reading a book.
7. In Swahili you can study the Bible.
8. The Dutch are poor.
9. On Thursdays I read books.
10. My brother studies your book.

5. Playing the cognate game (Answer sheet)

5.1. English	Swahili (1-20)	Indonesian (a-t)
Bring me your notebook.		
Bring your books to school.		
He sold me a book.		
His shirt is on his thigh.		
I didn't have time on Friday.		
I have books about Jews.		
I like the Dutch flag.		
I speak Swahili.		
I study biology.		
In Swahili you can say what's new.		
My brother's shirt is green		
My sister studies chemistry.		
My sister's headscarf is blue.		
On Fridays I pray.		
These districts are safe.		
This list says that you are poor.		
This neighborhood is safe.		
Today is Thursday.		
Tomorrow you're going to Egypt.		
Yesterday I read the Bible.		

5.2. Swahili word	English meaning of Swahili word	Indonesian misleading cognate	English meaning of Indonesian misleading cognate

5.3.	Swahili	Indonesian
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

5. Playing the cognate game (solutions and marking)

5.1: 1 point for each correct answer (total = 40)

5.2: 1 point for each correct pair and an additional point for each correct English translation (total = 4)

5.3: 2 points for each perfect answer, 1 point for getting the basic idea with minor errors (total = 40)

Grand total = 84.

5.1. English	Swahili (1-20)	Indonesian (a-t)
Bring me your notebook.	10	A
Bring your books to school.	9	B
He sold me a book.	1	E
His shirt is on his thigh.	17	J
I didn't have time on Friday.	19	S
I have books about Jews.	11	Q
I like the Dutch flag.	13	R
I speak Swahili.	14	O
I study biology.	12	N
In Swahili you can say what's new.	5	D
My brother's shirt is green	16	I
My sister studies chemistry.	2	H
My sister's headscarf is blue.	3	G
On Fridays I pray.	18	K
These districts are safe.	20	T
This list says that you are poor.	15	M
This neighborhood is safe.	7	L
Today is Thursday.	8	F
Tomorrow you're going to Egypt.	6	C
Yesterday I read the Bible.	4	P

5.2. Swahili word	English meaning of Swahili word	Indonesian misleading cognate	English meaning of Indonesian misleading cognate
daftari kaka	notebook brother	daftar kakak	list (older) sister (or brother)
katika kitabu	in book	ketika (al-)kitab	on the bible

5.3.	Swahili	Indonesian
1.	Ninasema Kiyahudi	Saya bisa berbahasa Yahudi
2.	Ninapenda shati la dada wangu	Saya suka kemeja adikku OR Saya suka kemeja kakakku
3.	Aliniuza bendera	Dia menjual saya bendera
4.	Misri ni salama	Mesri (adalah) selamat
5.	Ananiuza hijabu	Dia menjual saya jilbab
6.	Leo ninasoma kitabu	Hari ini saya membaca buku
7.	Katika Kiswahili unaweza kujifunza biblia	Di Bahasa Swahili Anda bisa belajar al-kitab
8.	Waholanzi ni meskini	Belanda-Belanda (adalah) miskin
9.	Siku za alhamisi ninasoma vitabu	Ketika hari kamis saya membaca buku-buku
10.	Kaka wangu anajifunza kitabu chako	Adikku belajar bukumu OR Kakakku belajar bukumu