**John**

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|  | **Chapter 1** |
| **1** | Hapo Mwanzo, Neno alikuwako; naye alikuwa na Mungu, naye alikuwa Mungu. |
| **2** | Tangu mwanzo Neno alikuwa na Mungu. |
| **3** | Kwa njia yake vitu vyote viliumbwa; hakuna hata kiumbe kimoja kilichoumbwa pasipo yeye. |
| **4** | Yeye alikuwa chanzo cha uhai na uhai huo ulikuwa mwanga wa watu. |
| **5** | Na mwanga huo huangaza gizani, nalo giza halikuweza kuushinda. |
| **6** | Mungu alimtuma mtu mmoja jina lake Yohane, |
| **7** | ambaye alikuja kuwaambia watu juu ya huo mwanga. Alikuja ili kwa ujumbe wake watu wote wapate kuamini. |
| **8** | Yeye hakuwa huo mwanga, ila alikuja tu kuwaambia watu juu ya huo mwanga. |
| **9** | Huu ndio mwanga halisi, mwanga unaokuja ulimwenguni, na kuwaangazia watu wote. |
| **10** | Basi, Neno alikuwako ulimwenguni; na kwa njia yake ulimwengu uliumbwa, lakini ulimwengu haukumtambua. |
| **11** | Alikuja katika nchi yake mwenyewe, nao walio wake hawakumpokea. |
| **12** | Lakini wale wote waliompokea na kumwamini, hao aliwapa uwezo wa kuwa watoto wa Mungu. |
| **13** | Hawa wamekuwa watoto wa Mungu si kwa uwezo wa kibinadamu, wala kwa nguvu za kimwili, wala kwa mapenzi ya  mtu, bali Mungu mwenyewe ndiye baba yao. |
|  |  |
| **14** | Naye Neno akawa mwanadamu, akakaa kwetu. Nasi tumeuona utukufu wake, utukufu wake yeye aliye Mwana wa pekee wa Baba; amejaa neema na ukweli. |
| **15** | Yohane aliwaambia watu habari zake, akasema kwa sauti, "Huyu ndiye niliyemtaja wakati niliposema: `Anakuja mtu mmoja baada yangu ambaye ni mkuu kuliko mimi, maana alikuwako kabla mimi sijazaliwa."` |
| **16** | Kutokana na ukamilifu wake sisi tumepokea neema mfululizo. |
| **17** | Maana Mungu alitoa Sheria kwa njia ya Mose, lakini neema na kweli vimekuja kwa njia ya Kristo. |
| **18** | Hakuna mtu aliyemwona Mungu wakati wowote ule. Mwana wa pekee aliye sawa na Mungu ambaye ameungana na  Baba, ndiye aliyetujulisha habari za Mungu. |
| **19** | Huu ndio ushahidi Yohane alioutoa wakati viongozi wa Wayahudi kule Yerusalemu walipowatuma makuhani wa  Walawi kwake wamwulize: "Wewe u nani?" |
| **20** | Yohane hakukataa kujibu swali hilo, bali alisema waziwazi, "Mimi siye Kristo." |
| **21** | Hapo wakamwuliza, "Basi, wewe ni nani? Je, wewe ni Eliya?" Yohane akajibu, "La, mimi siye." Wakamwuliza, "Je,  wewe ni yule nabii?" Yohane akawajibu, "La!" |
| **22** | Nao wakamwuliza, "Basi, wewe ni nani? Wasema nini juu yako mwenyewe? Tuambie, ili tuwapelekee jibu wale  waliotutuma." |
| **23** | Yohane akawajibu, "Mimi ndiye yule ambaye nabii Isaya alisema habari zake: `Sauti ya mtu imesikika jangwani:  Nyoosheni njia ya Bwana."` |
| **24** | Hao watu walikuwa wametumwa na Mafarisayo. |
| **25** | Basi, wakamwuliza Yohane, "Kama wewe si Kristo, wala Eliya, wala yule nabii, mbona wabatiza?" |
| **26** | Yohane akawajibu, "Mimi nabatiza kwa maji, lakini yuko mmoja kati yenu, msiyemjua bado. |
| **27** | Huyo anakuja baada yangu, lakini mimi sistahili hata kumfungua kamba za viatu vyake." |
| **28** | Mambo haya yalifanyika huko Bethania, ng`ambo ya mto Yordani ambako Yohane alikuwa anabatiza. |
| **29** | Kesho yake, Yohane alimwona Yesu akimjia, akasema, "Huyu ndiye Mwana-kondoo wa Mungu aondoaye dhambi ya  ulimwengu! |
| **30** | Huyu ndiye niliyesema juu yake: `Baada yangu anakuja mtu mmoja aliye mkuu zaidi kuliko mimi, maana alikuwako  kabla mimi sijazaliwa!` |
| **31** | Mimi mwenyewe sikumfahamu, lakini nimekuja kubatiza kwa maji ili watu wa Israeli wapate kumjua." |
| **32** | Huu ndio ushahidi Yohane alioutoa: "Nilimwona Roho akishuka kama njiwa kutoka mbinguni na kutua juu yake. |
| **33** | Mimi sikumjua, lakini yule aliyenituma nikabatize watu kwa maji alikuwa ameniambia: `Mtu yule utakayemwona  Roho akimshukia kutoka mbinguni na kukaa juu yake, huyo ndiye anayebatiza kwa Roho Mtakatifu.` |
| **34** | Mimi nimeona na ninawaambieni kwamba huyu ndiye Mwana wa Mungu." |
| **35** | Kesho yake, Yohane alikuwa tena mahali hapo pamoja na wanafunzi wake wawili. |
| **36** | Alipomwona Yesu akipita akasema, "Tazameni! Huyu ndiye Mwana-kondoo wa Mungu." |
| **37** | Hao wanafunzi walimsikia Yohane akisema maneno hayo, wakamfuata Yesu. |
| **38** | Basi, Yesu aligeuka, na alipowaona hao wanafunzi wanamfuata, akawauliza, "Mnatafuta nini?" Nao wakamjibu, "Rabi  (yaani Mwalimu), unakaa wapi?" |
| **39** | Yesu akawaambia, "Njoni, nanyi mtaona." Hao wanafunzi wakamfuata, wakaona mahali alipokuwa anakaa,  wakashinda naye siku hiyo. Ilikuwa yapata saa kumi jioni. |
| **40** | Andrea, nduguye Simoni Petro, alikuwa mmoja wa hao wawili waliokuwa wamemsikia Yohane akisema hivyo,  wakamfuata Yesu. |
| **41** | Andrea alimkuta kwanza Simoni, ndugu yake, akamwambia, "Tumemwona Masiha" (maana yake Kristo). |
| **42** | Kisha akampeleka Simoni kwa Yesu. Naye Yesu akamtazama Simoni akasema, "Wewe ni Simoni mwana wa Yohane.  Sasa utaitwa Kefa." (maana yake ni Petro, yaani, "Mwamba.") |
| **43** | Kesho yake Yesu aliamua kwenda Galilaya. Basi, akamkuta Filipo, akamwambia, "Nifuate." |
| **44** | Filipo alikuwa mwenyeji wa Bethsaida, mji wa akina Andrea na Petro. |
| **45** | Naye Filipo akamkuta Nathanieli, akamwambia, "Tumemwona yule ambaye Mose aliandika juu yake katika kitabu cha  Sheria, na ambaye manabii waliandika habari zake, yaani Yesu Mwana wa Yosefu, kutoka Nazareti." |
| **46** | Naye Nathanieli akamwuliza Filipo, "Je, kitu chema chaweza kutoka Nazareti?" Filipo akamwambia, "Njoo uone." |
| **47** | Yesu alipomwona Nathanieli akimjia alisema juu yake, "Tazameni! Huyo ni Mwisraeli halisi: hamna hila ndani yake." |
| **48** | Naye Nathanieli akamwuliza, "Umepataje kunijua?" Yesu akamwambia, "Ulipokuwa chini ya mtini hata kabla Filipo  hajakuita, nilikuona." |
| **49** | Hapo Nathanieli akamwambia, "Mwalimu, wewe ni Mwana wa Mungu. Wewe ni Mfalme wa Israeli!" |
| **50** | Yesu akamwambia, "Je, umeamini kwa kuwa nimekwambia kwamba nilikuona chini ya mtini? Utaona makubwa zaidi  kuliko haya." |
| **51** | Yesu akaendelea kusema, "Nawaambieni kweli, mtaona mbingu zinafunguka na malaika wa Mungu wakipanda na  kushuka juu ya Mwana wa Mtu." |

The complete list of basic subject prefixes, with the *m-/wa-* (human class) in the third person, is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject prefixes** | | |
| **Person** | **Sg.** | **Pl.** |
| **1st** | *Ni-* | *Tu-* |
| **2nd** | *U-* | *M-* |
| **3rd (animate)** | *A-* | *Wa-* |

The most common tense prefixes are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tense and mood prefixes** | |
| *-a-* | gnomic (indefinite time) |
| *-na-* | definite time (often present progressive) |
| *-me-* | perfect |
| *-li-* | past |
| *-ta-* | future |
| *hu-* | habitual (does not take subject prefix) |
| *-ki-* | conditional |

The indefinite ([gnomic tense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnomic_tense)) prefix is used for generic statements such as "birds fly", and the [vowels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vowel) of the subject prefixes are is assimilated. Thus *nasoma* means 'I read', although colloquially it is also short for *ninasoma.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Persons in gnomic tense** | | |
| **1st** | *na-* | *twa-* |
| **2nd** | *wa-* | *mwa-* |
| **3rd** | *a-* | *wa-* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *na-* | *soma* |
| 1sg:GNOM | read |

'I read'

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *mwa-* | *soma* |
| 2pl:GNOM | read |

'You (pl) read'

Conditional:

*ni-ki-nunua nyama wa mbuzi soko-ni, ni-ta-pika leo.*

'If I buy goat meat at the market, I'll cook today.'

The English conjunction 'if' is translated by *-ki-*.

A third prefix is the object prefix. It is placed just before the root and refers a particular object, either a person, or rather as "the" does in English:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *a-* | *na-* | *mw-* | *ona* |
| 3sg | DEF.T. | 3sg.OBJ | see |

'He (is) see(ing) him/her'

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *ni-* | *na-* | *mw-* | *ona* | *mtoto* |
| 1sg | DEF.T. | 3sg.OBJ | see | child |

'I (am) see(ing) *the* child'

The *-a* suffix listed by dictionaries is the positive indicative mood. Other forms occur with negation and the subjunctive, as in *sisomi*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *si-* | *som-* | *-i* |
| 1sg.NEG:PRES | read | NEG |

'I am not reading/ I don't read'

Other instances of this change of the final vowel include the subjunctive in *-e.* This goes only for Bantu verbs ending with *-a*; Arabic-derived verbs do not change their final vowel.

Other suffixes, which once again look suspiciously like infixes, are placed before the end vowel, such as the [applicative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Applicative) *-i-* and [passive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passive) *-w-*:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *wa-* | *na-* | *pig* | *-w* | *-a* |
| 3pl | DEF.T. | hit | PASSIVE | IND. |

'They are *being* hit'

## [[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Swahili_language&action=edit&section=6)] Noun classes

In common with all [Bantu languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_language), Swahili [grammar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammar) arranges nouns into a number of [classes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun_class). The ancestral system had 22 classes, counting singular and plural as distinct according to the [Meinhof system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Meinhof), with most Bantu languages sharing at least ten of these. Swahili employs sixteen: six classes that usually indicate singular nouns, five classes that usually indicate plural nouns, a class for abstract nouns, a class for verbal infinitives used as nouns, and three classes to indicate location.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **class** | **prefix** | **singular** | **translation** | **plural** | **translation** |
| **1, 2** | m-/mu-, wa- | mtu | *person* | watu | *persons* |
| **3, 4** | m-/mu-, mi- | mti | *tree* | miti | *trees* |
| **5, 6** | Ø/ji-, ma- | jicho | *eye* | macho | *eyes* |
| **7, 8** | ki-, vi- | kisu | *knife* | visu | *knives* |
| **9, 10** | Ø/n-, Ø/n- | ndoto | *dream* | ndoto | *dreams* |
| **11** | u- | ua | *flower* |  | |
| **14** | u- | utoto | *childhood* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **singular** | | |  | **plural** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **m**toto | **m**moja | **a**nasoma |  | **wa**toto | **wa**wili | **wa**nasoma |
| child | one | is reading |  | children | two | are reading |
| One child is reading | | |  | Two children are reading | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ki**tabu | **ki**moja | **ki**natosha |  | **vi**tabu | **vi**wili | **vi**natosha |
| book | one | suffices |  | books | two | suffice |
| One book is enough | | |  | Two books are enough | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **n**dizi | moja | **i**natosha |  | **n**dizi | **m**bili | **zi**natosha |
| banana | one | suffices |  | bananas | two | suffice |
| One banana is enough | | |  | Two bananas are enough | | |