

# Morphosyntactic variation in East African Bantu languages

Descriptive and comparative approaches

Edited by

Hannah Gibson

Rozenn Guérois

Gastor Mapunda

Lutz Marten

Contemporary African Linguistics 8



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Peter Edelsten is a Research Associate in Linguistics at SOAS University of London. He has a background in mathematics, agriculture, finance and linguistics. His principal linguistic publication is as co-author, with Chiku Lijongwa, of a *Grammatical Sketch of Chindamba*, an endangered language of southern Tanzania (Cologne: Köppe, 2010). Since 2016 he has provided mathematical and computing assistance to the project 'Morphosyntactic variation in Bantu: Typology, contact and change' housed in the Linguistics Department at SOAS under the direction of Lutz Marten, and contributed to publications generated by the project.

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### *Author biographies*

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### Kyle Jerro (ORCID 0000-0002-1467-2524)

Kyle Jerro is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Essex. They are interested in semantics, syntax, and the interfaces between syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. In particular, their focus has been on the question of possible verb meanings and how the meaning of a verb derives argument realization, especially on the semantics of valency changing morphology like applicatives and causatives in Bantu languages. They have also conducted research in the areas of aspect and temporal reference, information structure, the semantics of location and directed motion, reference and fictional worlds, and the psycho-semantic reality of noun classes in Bantu languages.

### Kulikoyela Kahigi

Kulikoyela Kahigi is Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Languages and Linguistics, Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), Mwanza. Before moving to SAUT, he taught Swahili language and linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) for many years. While at UDSM, he was, at various times, Chief Editor of the journals *UTAFITI*, *KIOO CHA LUGHA* and *KISWAHILI*. He was also involved in the Microsoft Kiswahili localisation project as Chief Moderator and Language Expert (2004-8), and was part of the Management Committee, Research Team and Editorial Panel of the 'Languages of Tanzania' (LOT) project which published 20 dictionaries and the *Atlasi ya Lugha za Tanzania* ('Atlas of the languages of Tanzania', Dar es Salaam: LOT, 2009). His current interests are in Bantu linguistics (synchronic and diachronic), discourse analysis, stylistics, and poetry. His publications include *Sema Kiswahili: Furahia Tanzania* (Dar es Salaam: US Peace Corps Tanzania, 1997) as consultant and co-author, 'Structural and cohesion dimensions of style: A considerations of some texts in Maw 1974' (*Journal of Linguistics and Language Education* 3: 1-79, 1997), *Misingi ya Kusoma* ('Foundations of Reading') (Dar es Salaam: Children's Book Project Tanzania, 2003), *Sumbwa-English-Swahili/English-Sumbwa-Swahili dictionary* (Dar es Salaam: LOT, 2008), *Kahe-English-Swahili/English-Kahe-Swahili lexicon*, Dar es Salaam: LOT, 2008; *Misingi ya Semantiki na Pragmatiki ya Kiswahili* (Dar es Salaam: KAUTTU, 2019). His most recent collections of poetry include *Mageuzi* (Dar es Salaam: KAUTTU, 2019) and *New Horizons* (Dar es Salaam: E & D Vision Publishers, 2018).

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**Amani Lusekelo (ORCID 0000-0001-6275-237X)**

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Lutz Marten is Professor of General and African Linguistics at SOAS University of London, where he has served as Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures and as Head of the SOAS Doctoral School. He is interested in linguistic theory, comparative and historical linguistics, and questions of language and identity. Most of his work focuses on African languages and he has conducted research in Eastern and Southern Africa. His publications include *At the Syntax-Pragmatics Interface* (Oxford: OUP, 2002), *A Grammatical Sketch of Herero* (with

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### **Armindo Ngunga**

Armindo Saúl Atelela Ngunga, PhD in Linguistics (from UC Berkeley), Chairperson of the Northern Integrated Development Agency, is Professor of Linguistics at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, where he taught general linguistics, phonetics, phonology and morphology of Bantu languages since 1984. He has supervised several graduate and Master's dissertations and PhD theses. He served as Secretary of State in Cabo Delgado Province (2020-2021), Vice-Minister of Education and Human Development (2015-2020), Director of the Centre of African Studies (2007-2015) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the Eduardo Mondlane University (1999-2007). He has published tens of journal articles and book chapters, and has written and edited books on grammar and lexicography of Mozambican languages. He has edited a book series called *As nossas línguas* ('Our languages'), with twelve titles since 2009.

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Daisuke Shinagawa is Associate Professor at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He has been carrying out his descriptive field linguistic research on underdescribed Kilimanjaro Bantu languages including Rwa (E621A), Siha (E621C), Uru (E622D), and Rombo-Mkuu (E623C). His research interests are based on structural diversity of Bantu languages and typological principles lying behind. He has also been working on the structural variations of Swahili, particularly focusing on urban varieties generally known as Sheng. His current publications include 'A micro-parametric survey on typological covariation related to focus marking strategies, based on the Bantu Morphosyntactic Variation database' (with Lutz Marten, *Linguistique et langues africaines* 9(1): 1-25, 2023), *Descriptive Materials of Morphosyntactic Microvariation in Bantu Vol.2: A microparametric survey of*

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*morphosyntactic microvariation in Southern Bantu languages* (co-edited with Seunghun J. Lee and Yuko Abe, Tokyo: ILCAA, 2021), *Variation in Swahili, special issue of Swahili Forum 26* (co-edited with Nico Nassenstein, 2019), and *Descriptive Materials of Morphosyntactic Microvariation in Bantu* (co-edited with Yuko Abe, Tokyo: ILCAA, 2018).

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Nobuko Yoneda started her doctoral course at the Graduate School of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 1995, majoring in African Linguistics, and received her PhD in 2000. She worked as a Lecturer at Osaka Jogakuin University from 2000 to 2002. She has worked at Osaka University since 2002, first as Associate Professor (2008-2010) and then since 2010 as Professor, teaching Swahili grammar, Bantu linguistics, and African sociolinguistics. Her research interests are descriptive linguistics in Bantu languages and sociolinguistics. She has been conducting fieldwork in Africa, mainly in Tanzania and Namibia, since 1993. Her main publications include 'Noncausal/causal verb alternations in Swahili' (*Linguistique et Langues Africaines* 8(2), 2022), 'Noun-modifying constructions in

Swahili and Japanese' (in Prashant Pardeshi and Taro Kageyama (eds.), *Handbook of Japanese Contrastive Linguistics*, 433-452. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton, 2018), 'Conjoint/disjoint distinction and focus in Matengo (N13)' (in Larry Hyman and Jenneke van der Wal (eds.), *The Conjoint/Disjoint Alternation in Bantu*, 14-60. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton, 2017) and 'Word order in Matengo (N13): Topicality and informational roles' (*Lingua* 121(5): 754-771, 2011).

