Dr. Patrick N. Kanampiu, PhD

CONTACT
INFORMATION

Department of Humanities
Tharaka University
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QUICK LINKS   Awards & Grants, Journal Articles, Professional Activities, Teaching,

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

- Language acquisition and change
- Learning biases
- Language typology
- Experimental approaches to language research
- Theoretical syntax and morphology
- Artificial language learning and grammaticality judgments

EMPLOYMENT

Tharaka University Kenya
Department of Humanities
- *Field Attachment Coordinator (Humanities)*, January 2025 - Present
- *Section Head (English & Linguistics)*, 2019-2021; October 2024 - Present
- *Assistant Lecturer of English & Linguistics*, 2019-present

Chuka University
Department of Humanities
- *Part-time Lecturer in English & Linguistics*, March – December 2019

Teachers Service Commission, Kenya
Mwiru Turima Tweru Secondary School
- *Teacher of English & Literature*, 2012-2019

EDUCATION

PhD., The University of Edinburgh, Linguistics & English Language, January 2025
- Dissertation: *Accounting for morphosyntactic variation in the nominal domain: A quantitative and experimental investigation of nominal classification and related phenomena in Kĩĩtharaka.*

M.A., Chuka University, English & Linguistics, November 2017
- Dissertation: *The syntax of the determiner phrase in Kĩĩtharaka.*

B.ED (Arts), Kenyatta University, English & Literature, December 2009

AWARDS,
HONOURS, &
GRANTS

- University of Edinburgh, College of Arts and Humanities PhD Scholarships 2020, (Full fees and stipends)
- CODESRIA Grant, 2023. Meru Tonal dialectology Project (A collaborative Research Project with Prof. Nancy Mbaka (Chuka University), Prof. Humprey Kirimi (Chogoria Campus), Dr. Safari Ntalala (Karatina University, Dr. Gervasio Miriti (Turkana University) and Prof. Michael Marlo (University of University of Missouri, USA), ($50,000)

- [Partnership Fund Research Grant (CO-PI)](#). Language context and attitudes among Kîîtharaka speakers in Kenya, (£17,893.333)

JOURNAL
ARTICLES

- Kanampiu, P., Martin, A., and Culbertson, J. (2025). Experimental evidence for semantic and morphophonological productivity in Kîîtharaka noun classes. *Glossa psycholinguistics*, 4(1):1–45.

- Kanampiu, P., Martin, A., and Culbertson, J. (2025). Semantic and morphophonological productivity in Kîîtharaka gender system: A quantitative study. *Glossa: a journal of General Linguistics*, 10(1):1–33.

- Saldana, C., Kanampiu, P., and Culbertson, J. (In Press). Gender comes first: Experimental evidence for the representation of gender closer to the noun stem than number across linguistic populations.

- Martin, A., Adger, D., Abels, K., Kanampiu, P., and Culbertson, J. (2024). A universal cognitive bias in word order: Evidence from speakers whose language goes against it. *Psychological Science*, 35(3):304–311.

- J Kerr, E., Asiimwe, A., Kanampiu, P., Li, Z., Nshemezimana, E., and van der Wal, J. (2023). Bantu word order between discourse and syntactic relations. *Linguistique et langues africaines*, (9 (1)).

- Kanampiu, P. and Muriungi, P. (2019). Order of modifiers in Kîîtharaka determiner phrase. *International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature*, pp. 11–21.

- Kanampiu, P. (2024). Expression of referents in Kîîtharaka. *Studies in African Linguistics*, 53(2):120–140.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Kanampiu, P. and van der Wal, J. (2025). The expression of information structure in Kîîtharaka. In *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, Contemporary African Linguistics. Language Science Press, Berlin.

- van der Wal, J., Asiimwe, A., Kanampiu, P., Kerr, E., Lusekelo, A., Nhantumbo, N., and Nshemezimana, E. (2025). On the expression of information structure in Bantu. In *The expression of information structure in Bantu*. Language Science Press.

INVITED TALKS

2024
- Kanampiu, P. (2024). Differential preference in the choice of nominal classification rules in kîîtharaka. Talk given at Centre for language Evolution (CLE) talk series at The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. [slides]

2023
- Kanampiu, P., Alexander, M., and Culbertson, J. (2023). A theory of morphological productivity is essential in characterizing noun classes: corpus and experimental evidence from Bantu. Talk given at This Time for Africa (TTFA) talk series at Leiden University, Netherlands.[slides]

2022
- Kanampiu, P. (2022). Morphophonological and semantic productivity of Kîîtharaka noun classes. Talk given at Meaning and grammar (MGRG) talk series at The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. [slides]

- Kanampiu, P., Alexander, M., and Culberston, J. (2024). A contest between form and meaning: Differential preference in the choice of nominal classification rules in Kîîtharaka. Paper presented at the 11th World Congress on African Linguistics (WOCAL 11) Conference, The University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya [slides]

- van der wal, J. and Kanampiu, P. (2024). Kîîtharaka initial focus: revisiting the cleft analysis. Joint talk given at World Congress on African Linguistics (WOCAL 11) conference held at The University of Nairobi, Kenya

- Marlo, M., Mbaka, N., Kirimi, H., Kanampiu, P., Miriti, E., and Ntalala, S. (2024). Collaborative research in meru linguistics. Talk given at World Congress on African Linguistics (WOCAL 11) conference held at The University of Nairobi, Kenya

- Asiimwe, A., Kanampiu, P., and van der wal, J. (2023). Information structure in Eastern Bantu languages. Joint talk given at Language Association of East Africa Bantu Syntax and Information (LAEA 3) conference held at Makerere University, Kampala

- Kanampiu, P., Alexander, M., and Culberston, J. (2023). Semantic and morphophonological productivity in Kîîtharaka noun classes. Joint talk given at Language Association of East Africa Bantu Syntax and Information (LAEA 3) conference held at Makerere University, Kampala [slides]

- Kerr, E., Asiimwe, A., Kanampiu, P., Li, Z., Nshemezimana, E., and van der wal, J. (2023). Bantu word order between discourse and syntactic relations. Joint talk given at Bantu Syntax and Information Structure (BaSiS) conference held at Leiden University, Netherlands.

- Kanampiu, P., Alexander, M., and Culberston, J. (2022). Determinants of noun classification in Kîîtharaka: a synchronic approach. Paper presentad at the 9th conference on Bantu linguistics (Bantu 9), Malawi University of Science and Technology, Blantyre, Malawi.. [slides]

- Asiimwe, A., Kanampiu, P., Kerr, E., Lusekelo, A., and van der Wal, J. (2021). Bantu word order from discourse to syntactic relations. Joint talk given at Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL) held in Florida, United States.

- Kanampiu, P., Asiimwe, A., Lusekelo, A., Nshemezimana, E., and van der Wal, J. (2023). Functional propertes of the particle -o in four bantu languages. Joint talk presented during BaSiS Conference at Leiden University, Netherlands. [slides]

TEACHING

Teaching at University of Edinburgh
- Introduction to Language and Linguistics (Tutor 2023-2024)
- Writing tutor at PPLS Skills Centre (2023-2024)

Teaching at Tharaka University
- Generative syntax (2025)
- Introduction to the study of language & linguistics (2025)
- Structural Description of modern English (2025)
- Introduction to structure of English (2025)
- The phonology of English (2025)
- Structural description of modern English (2024)
- Introduction to Language and Linguistics (2019-2021)
- Communication skills (2018-2021)

- Origins and Development of the English Language (2019-2021)
- Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology(2019-2020)
- Introduction to the Structure of English (2020-2021)
- Introduction to Morphology and Syntax (2020-2021)

PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES &
SERVICE

- Ad hoc journal reviewing, *Journal of Humanities*
- Ad hoc conference reviewing, *BASiS conference*, *LAEA 3 conference*
- Language Association of East Africa (LAEA) Member (2021-present)