

Languages in contact

– the case of Czech and Swahili

Language Centre Week

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Swahili

- Swahili (Bantu language spoken either as a mother tongue or as a fluent second language on the east coast of Africa. Swahili speakers spread over more than 14 countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Comoros, and as far as Oman and Yemen in the Middle East

- current speakers are estimated to be 200 million

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Obrázek – zdroj: <https://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~kkasongo/LinguisticMap.htm>



- Tanzania has at least 120 tribes and dialects around 130
- Swahili language is the uniting language and most popular African language in the world
- Example in The Lion King, Rafiki, Simba, Shenzi, Kovu, Pumbaa
- Apple products, Safari, Siri
- Games, Ubongo, Jenga
- United Nations
- African Union
- Swahili is taught in many universities around the world

Teaching Swahili to Czech students

- information on the course - what areas or topics are covered in one semester, authentic language - travelling, hospitals, food, culture, greetings, simple grammar, in the office, family, emergency services etc.
- typical mistakes, interference
- pronunciation (examples) Watu- Vatu, Wewe- Veve, Jana- Yana, (Letter W and J, Y)
- borrowings English - piča=picture, kunde- type of beans, Nakunda to love), Italian- Bendiera-Bendera, German- Schule- Shule) , Arabic -Qareeb- karibu, Salaam, Habari,baba, adui,bariki
- Corona´s experience with Czech – Names changes -Pepa, Pepik) Cermakova – are all these relatives end with OVA
- cultural differences? - flowers, Time keeping, religion, walk, weather, travelling, eating using hands, fat,
- černý pasažér/ Black passenger , grandpa and grandma in the trolley bus
- positive racism- Mzungu in Tanzania

Using Swahili in a research

- coincidence
- Hidden Languages in our Minds
- Swahili as an unknown language
- unknown versus forgotten
- word-detection task
- hypothesis
- linguistic profiles
- fMRI

Can you speak more languages and are you interested in how they work in our minds? Were you bilingual in your childhood but did you stop using one of your languages and forgot it?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADULT VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGE CATEGORIES FOR OUR PSYCHOLINGUISTIC AND NEUROLINGUISTIC RESEARCH OF MULTILINGUALISM.



CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL APPLICANTS:

You acquired **Czech and other language/languages** in your preschool age (i. e. because of your parents who come from various linguistic backgrounds, or because of moving into a foreign country etc.), but you stopped using one of your languages and your memory lost access to it.

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In case you are interested to be part of this research please contact Linda Doleží (Language Centre, Masaryk University, Brno). E-mail: dolezi@med.muni.cz

Translations

toy (36 s): My room isn't big, but it is nice. I have a table here, a lamp, a closet, a bed and my **toys (6 s)**. I need to tidy up the **toys (8 s)** when the room is messy. Mommy doesn't like it and gets very angry then. When the room is tidied up, mommy praises me. My favourite **toy (17 s)** is a teddy bear.

Vitu vya kuchezea (36 s): Chumba changu si kikubwa, lakini ni kizuri. Nina meza, taa, kabati, kitanda na **vitu vya kuchezea (sek 6)**. Napanga vizuri sana **vitu vya kuchezea (sekunde 8)** pale vinapozagaa, kwani Mama huwa hapendi na ukasirika sana. Chumba kikiwa kisafi, mama unisifu. Kati ya **vitu vya kuchezea (sek 16)** ninampenda Dubu.

vitu=things, kuchezea=playing, vya=connector (things for playing)

Can you detect the word?

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1QQYNIQoDO1l16gbn5s1cad4kJ89SHX1U>

VITABU

BAISKELI

SAFARI

Děkujeme moc!

Thank you very much!

Asante sana!