ARUSHA WORKING PAPERS IN AFRICAN LINGUISTICS

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REVIEW BOARD

FOREWORD

Although it made headlines in a few parts of the world, most people remain unaware that the very first doctoral dissertation was published just last year in Xhosa, a language spoken by almost twenty million in southern Africa (Simons and Fennig 2018)[1]. In this groundbreaking dissertation, Kunju (2017)[2] presents an interdisciplinary metacommentary on issues surrounding language use and identity construction among the Xhosa of Zimbabwe. Such an accomplishment underscores the need for Africanists to encourage scholarship *on* the continent *by* Africans, particularly since most—if not all—of the early language documentation and description in Africa took place by outsiders, e.g. Eustache de la Fosse traveled to the western coast of Africa and compiled a list of seven words in Twi in 1479/1480, while Giacinto Brusciotto compiled materials in Kikongo that led to a collection of texts in 1624 and a grammar in 1659.

Nonetheless, while African scholars do, indeed, conduct research on their own languages, the venues in which to publish their results remain limited. In particular, the major academic journals dedicated to African linguistics typically require submissions to be written in English, which serves more frequently as a language of facilitation as opposed to a native language. Moreover, the journals that are available tend to differ significantly (wildly?) in quality, rigor, and scope.

After the editor and members of the editorial board were invited to MA thesis defenses at Tumaini University Makumira in July 2017, it became clear that graduate students and junior-level scholars are producing interesting research that, according to one of the professors, "will be lost and never read again." The twenty-first century affords the opportunity to disseminate materials in an online capacity to essentially any part of the world, allowing such research not simply to remain ephemeral. As a result, the *Arusha Working Papers in African Linguistics* (AWPAL) was created to mitigate some of these limitations by allowing submissions in all major African languages for which reviewers can be found; to provide scholars, whose results might otherwise not find a home, with a venue in which to publish their work; and, in general, to create a forum in which applied and theoretical issues in African linguistics can be discussed, specifically those that are data-oriented and descriptive or pedagogical in nature.

As such, this inaugural issue of AWPAL presents five articles, one invited contribution, and two book reviews emphasizing issues with regard to phonology, morphosyntax, and sociolinguistics in Bukusu, Kimbu, Meeto-Makhuwa, Giha, Swahili, and Yoruba, in addition to numerous examples from other African and non-African languages being provided throughout the articles. We hope that you, the reader, find each manuscript to be insightful, thought-provoking, and a worthwhile use of your time. Finally, we must acknowledge the support of our review board for painstakingly reading through and writing individualized feedback on all of the submissions received, and we must also acknowledge the initial financial support from the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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[1] Simons, Gary F. and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2018. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Twenty-first edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: http://www.ethnologue.com.

[2] Kunju, Hleze Welsh. 2017. *IsiXhosa ulwimi lwabantu abangesosininzi eZimbabwe: ukuphila nokulondolozwa kwaso*. Rhodes University.

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