

PILOT REPORT ON THE DICTIONARY PROJECT OF MAKERERE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES:

ABSTRACT

The quintessence of the just concluded Pilot consists in four features. First, a two-week training course in lexicography was conducted so as to develop more capacity for dictionary compilation. Secondly, well trained definers completed manuscripts of drafts of Luganda and Runyankore-Rukiga dictionaries. Thirdly, both the Style and Defining Manuals do exhibit significant contrasts to the hitherto approaches to Bantu and Nilotic lexicography to such a degree that the Project portends a distinct contribution to lexicography in general. Finally, in the course of the Pilot two members of the team have embarked on developing their Ph.D. research proposals in the related fields of lexicology and lexicography.

THE REPORT

Generally speaking, the Pilot is characterizable in terms of the following phases:

- a. the training
- b. the dictionary writing
- c. the computer-typesetting and
- d. the editing phases.

2. Training

Upon receipt of the notification of Pilot approval from �@mak.com, the Institute immediately advertised for definers and simultaneously announced a training course in lexicography. The training course lasted for two weeks commencing on August, 1st, 2001, and was conducted partly in plenary and partly in language – specific sessions. The participants were introduced to the earliest editions of the Manuals. At the end of the course, defining loads were distributed to Luganda and Runyankore-Rukiga definers.

3. Dictionary Writing

In the period 15-29th August 2001, 25 Luganda and 25 Runyankore-Rukiga definers accomplished the task of writing drafts of dictionaries which now constitute a natural

springboard for the eventual Implementation Project. On the basis of feedback from the definers and daily meetings with Mr. Oriikiriza, Dr. Kiingi further elaborated the Manuals. Besides, the two Sub-Project Leaders initiated work on the front and back matter of their respective dictionaries.

On 3rd September, 2001 Mr. Oriikiriza inducted four computer-typesetters into the Shoebox computer program. Thereafter they started rendering the dictionary drafts into typescript.

4. Editing

The arduous work of editing the typeset material started on October 5th, 2001. When concluded, shortly after submission of this Report, the edited drafts will then be reviewed on the basis of the Style and Defining Manuals by Dr. J. Kalema (Luganda) and Dr. M.J.K. Muranga (Runyankore-Rukiga). In the event of implementing the project, the ensuring critiques will influence the augmentation and elaboration of the drafts to substantive dictionaries.

5. Problems encountered during the Pilot

As stated in Section 2, the Pilot began with training course. In this regard relative lack of interest in Acholi dictionary making was noted with concern. The adjoining Table shows registration and attendance figures.

Figures	Acholi	Luganda	Runyankore /Rukiga	Runyoro/ Rutoro
Course Registration	11	29	20	25
Course Attendance	24*	24	16	23
(a) beginning 1/08/2001				
(b) middle 08/08/2001	07	18	08	19
(c) end 14/08/2001	09	21	10	22

*This figure is for Lwo (Which subsumes Acholi)

Intermittent power cuts during the typesetting phase totalling to an equivalent of seven days adversely affected the Pilot to some worrying degree. But the Pilot was mostly bedevilled by the tight budget.

6. Development of Ph.D. Proposals

Mr. Kirigwajjo is currently developing a proposal for doctoral research in the area of thematic lexicography of Luganda, while Mr. Oriikiriza's proposal is a clear effort to put Bantu lexicography on a new footing.

The foregoing documents our determination and capability to proceed to full implementation of the Dictionary Project.

Dr. K.B. Kiingi, Project Leader and Author