

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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## PERSONAL

Name Peter Githinji, PhD

Sex Male

Date of Birth 27/09/1970

Age 47 years

Marital Status Single

Address Twaweza House  
Parklands Road, Mpesi Lane  
P.O.Box 66872-00800  
Westlands, Nairobi

Phone: 0725636086

Email: [githinji4591@gmail.com](mailto:githinji4591@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

Jan. 2002 - 2006 **PhD in Linguistics, Michigan State University**  
Dissertation Title: Sheng and variation: The negotiation and construction of Layered Identities.

Sept. 1999 - Dec. 2001 **MA in Linguistics, Michigan State University**  
Thesis: Language Attitudes: Nairobi People and Sheng.

Dec. 1990 - Mar. 1995 **BA in Kiswahili & Literature, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Mar. 2016-Present Contractual Appointment as a full time Associate Professor at Kenyatta University, Department of Kiswahili. Teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses and Supervising MA students. I also serve in the Campus Management team, and coordinate the Swahili program at Nakuru campus. I am also in the Campus marketing and IT team.

June-August 2014. In country Director for the Intensive Swahili program-The Fulbright Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) in Arusha, Tanzania

June –August 2015. In Country Director for Swahili GPA in Arusha Tanzania

May 2011-Dec 2015 Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure with same responsibilities as below.

Sept 2005- May 2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics. Teaching Swahili and Linguistics courses. Coordinator of African Languages. I supervised all the instructors of African languages and ensured that they fulfilled their responsibilities. This also involved ensuring that all the logistics issues necessary to fulfill their responsibilities were in place. I also organized orientation and training workshops to promote instructors teaching capacities and ensure that are adequately prepared in their roles. Finally, I organized the annual African Languages Day to provide a forum for students to display skills they have acquired

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- Elementary Swahili: SWAH 1110/5120, 1120/5120
- Intermediate Swahili: 2110/5210, 2120/5220
- Advanced Swahili: SWAH 3110/5310, 3120/5320
- Swahili Independent Study: SWAH 3990/5990
- LING 275: Introduction to Language and Culture
- LING 270: Nature of Language
- LING 440/540: Introduction to Bilingualism & Bilingual Education (Undergraduate/Graduate)
- LING 490/590: Introduction to Sociolinguistics (Undergraduate/Graduate)
- LING 4901: Sociolinguistics and Bilingualism
- LING 5901: Sociolinguistics and Bilingualism
- AKS 801: Advanced Kiswahili structure
- AKS 802: Historian na Maendeleo ya Kiswahili
- AKS 806: Advanced Sociolinguistics
- AKS 100: Introduction to the study of Language
- AKS 102: History and development of Kiswahili
- AKS 200: Phonetics and Phonology
- AKS 202: Language Skills in Kiswahili II
- AKS 300: Morphology and Syntax
- AKS 400: Sociolinguistics

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2014: Kwa miaka hamsini, Sheng imekitunza au imekiua Kiswahili? In Simala, I, L. Chacha & M. Osore (eds.) *Miaka Hamsini ya Kiswahili Nchini Kenya*. Twaweza Communications (pp 34-52). Nairobi, Twaweza Communications
- 2012: The Usual Suspects: In defense of Urban Languages. In Sanneh, S, K. Wanjogu and O. Adesola (Eds.) *Language in African Performing and Visual Arts: Selected Papers from a Conference held at Yale University*. pp 110-116)
- 2012 Utetezi wa Elimu ya Uwililugha Africa Mashariki. In Momanyi, C, K Njogu nd M

Mukuthuria (Eds.) *Kiswahili na Utaifa Nchini Kenya* (pp 87-105) Chakita Kenya and Twaweza Communications Nairobi

- 2011: Translanguaging and negotiation of ethnicity: Reproduction of hegemonic structures in communication media. In N. Wachanga (Ed.) *Cultural Identity and New Communication Technologies: Political, Ethnic and Ideological Implications*. IGI Global. Hershey, Pa.
- 2011 Insults and folk humor: verbal transgression in Sheng's Mchongoano. Festschrift in honor of David Dwyer. Joy of Language, East Lansing, Michigan State University, <https://www.msu.edu/%7Edwyer/JOLIndex.htm>.
- 2009 *Sheng, Styleshifting and construction of Multifaceted Identities: Discursive Practices in the Social Negotiation of Meaning*. Sarbrucken: VDM Verlag Dr. Müller.
- 2008 Ambivalent attitudes: Perception of Sheng and its speakers. *Nordic journal of African Studies* 17 (2) 113-136
- 2008 Sexism and (mis)representation of women in Sheng. *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 20 (1): 15-32
- 2007 Mchongoano verbal duels: Risky Discourse and sociocultural commentary. In Kimani Njogu and G. Oluoch Olunya 2007 *Cultural Productions and Social Change in Kenya: Building Bridges* vol 1: 89-109
- 2006 Bazes and their shibboleths: Lexical variation and Sheng speakers' identity in Nairobi. *Nordic Journal of African Languages* 15 (4): 443-472
- 2006 "The Asymmetric Nature of Bantu Applicative Constructions". Paper co-authored with Deo Ngonyani *Lingua* 116: 31-63

#### **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

2018. Workshop Presentation. What Qualifies as Sheng? A workshop on Kenya Youth Language Practices held at Kenyatta University (July 19-20)
2017. Conference Presentation. Athari za lugha za Kienyeji katika leksia na sintaksia ya Kiswahili cha Kenya. At Kibabii University, Bungoma, (July 20-22)
2016. Conference Presentation. Ngazi za Kiswahili: Je kuna Kiswahili kimoja au "Viswahili" vingi? At CHAUKIDU Conference held at the Catholic University of East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, December 16-17, 2016.
2016. Conference Presentation. Isimuyahe: Haja ya kuzingatia maoni ya wazungumzaji wa Kiswahili. At CHAKITA conference held at Swahili Cultural Centre, Mombasa Kenya (September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>2016)
2014. Conference presentations. Kenyan Scholars and Studies (KESSA), Florence, Alabama, The

mental maps of Swahili speakers (September 6, 2014).

- 2013 Seminar, Conference: Sheng Language in Kenya - Structure, Uses & Pedagogy, The French Institute of Research in Africa (IFRA), Nairobi, Kenya. (July 16, 2013).
- 2013 Seminar, Reflection on the future of Sheng in Kenya, Public Intellectual Forum on Sheng and Media in Kenya: Twaweza communications, Nairobi, Kenya. (July 10, 2013)
- 2013 Conference Attendance, Linguistic competition in urban spaces: Sheng's value, utility and adaptation to Kenyan linguistic market., African Urban and Youth Languages Conference 2013, Cape Town, South Africa. (July 5, 2013 - July 7, 2013)
- 2013 Inaugural Graduation Ceremony, Josnem Teachers Training Institute, Nakuru, Kenya, They are counting on us, Githinji, P. (Presenter & Author). (September 6, 2013)
- 2013 International conference for the Celebration of 50 years of Kiswahili Development in Kenya, Chama cha Kiswahili cha Taifa (CHAKITA), Nairobi, Kwa miaka hamsini, Sheng imekitunza au kukiangamiza Kiswahili?
- 2011 Conference Presentation: Corruption or innovation? Making sense of Kenyan Urban youth Discourse, Kenya Scholars and studies Association, Bowling Green, Ohio, United States. (September 16 -17)
- 2011: Bilingual education in Kenya: Which way for the Counties, Kenya Scholars and studies association, Bowling Green, Ohio, United States (September 16-17)
- 2010 Conference Presentation. Brand Swahili: Squandered birthright, misguided policies and linguistic insecurity among Kenyans. Annual Conference of Kenyan Scholar and Studies Association (KESSA) at Bowling Green University (Sept 19-19 2010)
2010. Conference presentation. Tafsiri na ufundishaji wa Kiswahili kwa wanafunzi wa ng'ambo (*Translation and Teaching of Swahili to students abroad*) to be presented during the CHAKITA conference at Pwani University, Kilifi (August 9-12)
- 2010 Language in Education policy in Tanzania and Ethiopia: The path in between for Kenya. Paper presented during the International Conference on Multilingualism at Kenyatta University, Nairobi (July 22-23)
- 2010 Managing L1 in the second language classroom. Presentation during the ALTA/NCOLCTL Conference at Madison, Wisconsin (April 21-25)
- 2009 Translanguaging in imagined communities: Mismatch between ethnic language and ethnic identity. Presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of African Linguistics at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (April 9-11)
- 2009 Educational marginalization of African children without the Mother-Tongues. Paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute of the African Child at Ohio University.(March 12-14)

- 2008 Arresting Language decline: A proposal for trilingualism. A joint presentation with Peter Otiato during the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) Conference at Madison, Wisconsin (April 24-18)
- 2008 Lexical gaps: Lexicographers, you got work to do. Paper presented during the Annual Conference of African Linguists (ACAL) in Athens, Georgia (April 18-20)
- 2008 Outside the Box: Revitalizing local knowledge through linguistic hybridity. Presented at the Symposium on "Enabling Local Knowledge in Africa: A Pathway to Social Resilience?" held at Ohio University on January 24 and 25
- 2007 Socio-linguistic construction of gender among Sheng Speaker in Nairobi. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of African Linguistics (ACAL) at Gainesville, Florida
- 2007 Maximizing media output in the language classroom: pros and cons of audio-visual cues. Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) at Gainesville Florida
- 2006 Homecoming: Drawing from the source in the teaching of African Languages. Presented in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of African Language Teacher's Association at Rutgers
- 2006 "Changing with change: Making African Languages relevant to global demands". Presented jointly with Peter Otiato at 10<sup>th</sup> ALTA conference at Rutgers
- 2005 Bases of Sheng and lexical variation: Indices of multiple identities in Nairobi. Colloquium talk at Ohio University
- 2005 "Non-standard features in language pedagogy: to teach or not to teach?" Presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) at Yale University.
- 2001 "The Dilemma of Stereotyping Sheng' and Its Speakers" Paper presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference at Stanford University, San Francisco, California

#### **AWARDS**

2013. Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad hosted by Michigan State University and Ohio University with Dr. Deo Ngonyani (PI) \$362,128. A program that takes Advanced Swahili students for an intensive course during the summer. In-Country Director during the 2014 and 2015 at MS-TCDC in Arusha Tanzania.
2013. Faculty Fellowship Leave. August 2013-December 2013
- 2016 US department of Education grant (Swahili STARTALK) PI \$ 90,000. A 4-week intensive summer program that aims to teach Swahili to American students at Ohio University

#### **WORK IN PRESS**

Sheng in Kenya's informally economy: A tool for empowerment. To be published in Jahazi Journal

## **WORK UNDER REVIEW**

Submitted. The complex face of African Multilingualism (A chapter in a proposed university introduction to Africa textbook)

Dialect mapping and attitudes of Swahili varieties in Kenya: Folklinguistic perspective  
Submitted to *Utafiti* Journal

## **Others positions served at Ohio University**

- Promotion and Tenure committee (College of Arts and sciences)
- Coordinator: Linguistic Colloquium
- Advisor: African Languages association
- Chair of Department Peer Review Committee (2007)
- Foreign Languages and Areas Study (FLAS) fellowship award committee
- External examiner of Gikuyu
- African languages committee
- African Studies Admission committee
- African Studies Advisory board
- Foreign Languages and Areas Study (FLAS) reviewer

## **Supervision: Thesis and Dissertation committees**

*Director: MA Theses*

2010. Bouchra Kachoub. The Relationship of L2 attitudes to L3 attitudes and learning: A study of Moroccan University Students

2012. Nandaka Kalugampitiya The Role Accent Plays in the Evaluations of Native Speaker-hood by Native Speakers of American English

2015. Ray, Keith. Identities and Imagined Communities amongst selected groups of English Language Learners at Ohio University.

*Member: Theses and Dissertations Committee.*

2010. Nurenzia Yannuar. Exploring learners' autonomous abilities in blogs designed for independent learning. (MA Theses)

2012. Shariff Osman. Reading for Development: The Somali Rural Literacy Campaign of 1975 (PhD Dissertation)

2011. Elizabeth Ngumbi. Educational experiences of young Maasai women in Kajiado District, Kenya: a phenomenological case study of Enoomasiani Girls Secondary School (PhD Dissertation)

2016: Kamanga Chimwemwe (External Examiner): A Descriptive Analysis of Chibrazi, The Urban Contact Vernacular Language of Malaŵi. University of Pretoria.

Ongoing: Filipo Lubua. Academic Entrepreneurship in Instructional Technology. PhD project at Ohio University

*Masters projects completed*

2008. Derek Druzbacky. Storytelling Sex Tourism: The grammar of Agency and Non Agency in the Narratives of a Virtual Community.

2008. Jessica K. Mushi. An Analysis of linguistics Styles in a Tanzania Internet Forum

2009. Shuang Hu. A study of Teacher Initiated Codeswitching in Chinese as a Foreign Language Classroom.
2009. Ella Datsenko. Attitudes of Ukrainians toward the Ukrainian and Russian Languages
2009. Nelly Martin. Codeswitching in Indonesian as a Second Language Classrooms
2009. Francis Wang'endo: Communicating morethan what is literally said: Exploring Implicature in Kenya Alcohol Commercials
2009. Albert Bado Bilingual Education in Burkina Faso: Parents' and Teachers' Attitudes towards Instruction in French and Indigenous Languages.
2010. Mary Gathogo: Acquisition of Sentential Negation by Swahili L2 Learners: Early Developmental Stages and Learner Strategies.
2010. Mariya Chakir: Why Morrocan Arabic is Unintelligible to Arabic Speakers from the Gulf
2010. Iryna Korbenyk: English Slang Acquisition by Non-Native Speakers of English (A Case Study at Ohio Program of Intensive English)

#### *Masters Projects Ongoing*

- Francis Maritim: Ulinganisho wa Uhalisia katika Riwaya za Utubora Mkulima na Cheche za Moto.
- Nelson Asige: Mtindo wa Hadithi katika Nyimbo za Bahati Bukuku.
- Samwel njihia. Mielekeo ya Walimu wa Shule za Msingi kuhusu Kiswahili kuwa somo la lazima katika Mtalaa wa kujifunza kuwa
- Zipporah Siwatum. Dhana ya Ndoto katika Fasihi ya Watoto: Ndoto ya Riziki, Ndoto ya Amerika na Tumaini

#### **SKILLS**

Languages: Swahili (fluent), Kikuyu (fluent), English (fluent) German (basic skills)

Computer skills: Working computer skills

Writing: Academic writing

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- Past Member of CHAUKIDU (Global Swahili promotion organization)
- Editorial Board. Nairobi University Journal of Linguistics
- Editorial Board. Pan African University Interdisciplinary Journal
- Past Member of African Language Teachers Association
- Past member African Studies Association
- Past member of Kenya Studies and Scholar's Association
- Past Member of Chama Cha Kiswahili cha Taifa (CHAKITA)

#### **References**

Dr. Christopher Thompson  
 Department of Linguistics, Ohio University  
 Athens, OH 45701  
[thomsoc@ohio.edu](mailto:thomsoc@ohio.edu)

Prof Kimani Njogu  
CEO Twaweza Communications  
Twaweza Communications Limited  
Twaweza House, Parklands Road, Westlands  
P.O.Box 66872-00800, Nairobi  
[kimani.njogu@gmail.com](mailto:kimani.njogu@gmail.com)

Dr Murimi Gaita  
Deputy Director, Nakuru Campus  
P.O.Box 17952-20100  
Nakuru  
[murimigaita@gmail.com](mailto:murimigaita@gmail.com)