

**A REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF A RESEARCH PROPOSAL BY DAVID MAJARIWA  
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REPORT PREPARED FOR: **The Directorate of Research and Publication, Kabale University**

RESEARCH TITLE: **Towards Taking Kiswahili to the Informal Sector: Developing Peoples' Kiswahili Oral Proficiency as a Soft Skill to Widen their Economic Prospects**

DATE: **28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**

### **1. Background/Literature Review**

The investigator, demonstrates sufficient mastery of his area of study, that is, the development and promotion of Kiswahili as a second official language of Uganda as well as a lingua franca throughout the EAC and the Great Lakes Region at large. He relates and locates his study well within the precepts of other relevant and/or recent publications. This helps to identify the knowledge gap, namely sidelining the informal sector in the promotion and use of Kiswahili in Uganda, hence the relevancy of this research proposal which apparently seeks to intervene by involving the informal sector in Kiswahili language promotion and use in Uganda.

### **2. Problem Statement**

The investigator clearly indicates how the promotion and use of Kiswahili fits well within the national, regional and global development agenda, and further shows the critical knowledge gaps that ought to be addressed in order to meet the different development goals, for example, NDP III, EAC/AU visions as well as SDGs. Much as the promotion and use of Kiswahili follows the formal school system, other sections of the citizenry like informal sector have been left out hence the need and urgency to involve them, so as to fit into the national and EAC jigsaw, through Kiswahili oral communication skills.

### **3. Methodology**

The main objective of the study is fairly well formulated as regards leveraging the informal sector in the promotion and usage of Kiswahili. Nevertheless;

- The investigator may need to set his boundaries clearly by adding the expression “in Uganda”. The same expression could as well be annexed to the study title.
- Up till this point the investigator has been referring to the “promotion and usage” of Kiswahili, but it’s only here that he’s changed to “acquisition and usage”. He may need to clear about this.

The specific objectives are clearly stated, achievable and relate to the study.

The investigator proposes a case study design, which may effectively lead to in-depth study of his contextualized topic on the promotion and usage of Kiswahili among the informal sector in Uganda. Nevertheless, although he mentions purposive sampling, he still needs to highlight how he selects the research areas/sites of Kabale, Mbarara, Mbale and Kitgum. The reasoning that these areas “have a good number of workers... who may not speak Kiswahili language” is a bit misleading, without stating how such a sweeping conclusion was arrived at. Also, is the “representative sample from the four regions of Uganda” (Kigezi, Ankole, Bugisu and Acholi) based on cultural or geographical yardstick? On data collection techniques, FGDs could also elicit relevant in-depth data.

There is need to clarify how and why the investigator study arrives at the study population of 120 people. Is this number enough for a study of this kind?

There is, equally, a need to pretest research instruments through a baseline survey, and this ought to be applied on subjects with similar characteristics to the actual respondents. Additionally, in order to ascertain the effectiveness of the communicative competence approach, it may be necessary to have two oral proficiency assessment tests, namely before and after acquiring Kiswahili language skills. There is also a need to specify what kind of oral proficiency competences to be assessed; phonological, grammatical, lexical...

Generally, this Section (Methodology) needs to be revised and/or improved upon.

#### **4. Anticipated Output/Impacts**

Investigator gives an acceptable outline of benefits, specifically in terms of influencing government policy, empowering the community and acquisition of Kiswahili language to unlock people's regional interaction and business potential.

#### **5. Ethical Issues**

Some research ethical aspects have been mentioned. The researcher could as well include issues regarding ethical clearance procedures, informed consent for respondents and possibly communication on/ sharing of the research results.

#### **6. Feasibility and Achievability**

The study is quite feasible and achievable within the given stipulated time frame. The investigator seems conversant enough with the area of study as he has published a related paper on the role of Kiswahili pedagogy in developing the communicative competency (Majariwa, 2014). The scope of the study is equally generally achievable within the given budget. However, the investigator may wish to consider providing some modest transport refund and/or refreshment to the Kiswahili language trainees/learners, for them to attend regularly as well as keep their morale/ interest active, while studying.

#### **7. Work Plan**

The available work plan relates well with the objectives of the study. Different research activities are clearly identified. Nevertheless, there is need to indicate the year in the column for 'Date'. The investigator could as well add another column specifying the in-charge/participants for each activity, for easy tracking of and/or follow up. In addition, the time frame for training local people in Kiswahili language proficiency seems ambitious, as it may not be possible to achieve a 60 hour training in 30 days (at the rate of 2 hours per day), yet the month of February has 28 days (including Saturdays and Sundays). Worse still, it's in the same month of February when the investigator intends to analyze learners' proficiency levels in learnt competences.

## **8. Capacity Building**

The researcher ought to specifically show how staff at the Department/ Institution/ University at large will benefit from this study in terms of capacity building, possibly within the Section which deals with research output/ impact as well as in the Work plan. Will the study procure some equipment that can be utilized thereafter by the Department/ Institute?

## **9. Dissemination Plan**

The researcher ably outlines research dissemination activities for the study findings. He mentions policy reports/briefs, radio and television talk shows and journal articles. He possibly could as well consider holding dissemination workshops in the respective research regions/sites (which is equally an aspect of research ethics).

## **10. Recommendations**

Overall, this proposal is generally satisfactory, relevant and suitable for funding. The proposal highlights timely interventions in the promotion and relevant usage of Kiswahili in Uganda. **Therefore, we recommend that specific aspects of this proposal be revised accordingly, without need for reassessment.**

Reviewed by;



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