

AN AFRICAN-LANGUAGE GLOSSARY FOR CATALOGUERS

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FOREWORD

" A little learning is a dangerous thing," warned Pope, and I put out this glossary at my peril, since my knowledge of African languages is slight indeed. Nevertheless, on the grounds that any such work, however imperfect and incomplete, is better than none, I venture to hope that mine will be useful to cataloguers of African-language material.

Users of this glossary should bear in mind that the words it contains may have many meanings besides those listed here. Furthermore, some of my glosses are only approximate, conveying the gist of a word or phrase rather than its literal meaning.

An almost insuperable problem is that vocabulary is often common to several languages - especially among the Bantu group, many of whose members are bewilderingly alike. Where I know that a word belongs to two or more languages I have said so, but inevitably there will be some such cases which I have missed. Accordingly, if a word or phrase is glossed only as, for example, Zulu, this does not necessarily mean that it is only Zulu: it means that so far I have only encountered it in Zulu, which is a different matter.

Another problem is that many African languages exist in several dialects, or have used more than one orthography, so that each word may have five or six spellings in books published at different dates and in different places. In a small glossary like this it is clearly impossible to include all such spellings. What I have tried to do is to give the standard or commonest spellings plus a few of the more important variants. A user who fails to find a word under one spelling should check under any others which seem plausible before concluding that it is not listed.

Words with prefixes are entered as they occur in real life. Many dictionaries list only the roots of such words, and are therefore of little use to non-specialists. For example, the Swahili word kimetungwa, often seen on title pages, will not appear in a dictionary: lexicographers expect people to know that ki and me are grammatical inflexions and to look up the root tunga. Here no such expectation is made; the derivatives of tunga which librarians are likely to come across are listed separately, while tunga itself - rarely used as a word - is not listed at all.

This glossary is limited to the main Niger-Congo languages plus Hausa, the languages covered being:-

Akan (Fante)	Herero	Swahili
Akan (Twi)	Igbo	Swati
Bemba	Kongo	Tonga
Efik	Lingala	Tsonga
Ewe	Ndebele	Tswana
Gã	Northern Sotho	Khosa
Ganda	Nyanja/Chewa	Yao
Gikuyu	Shona	Yoruba
Hausa	Southern Sotho	Zulu

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THE GLOSSARY

A

- a fetolecoe mo puong ea
Secoana ke
abalebele mu ciBemba ni
abalobi, *see* umlobi
abhalwe ngu- (or abalwe ngu-)
abin da ke ciki, abin da ya ke
chiki, etc.
abubuwan da ke ciki
akomani na
akpa
- akwukwo, akwəkwo
Akwukwo Nso
Alàgbà
àlàyé, àlàyé òrò
Alhaji (feminine Hajiya)
- alisaidiwa na
Alkali
Allah
alotshwe ngu-
Alufa
amashiwi yakubalilapo
amazwi...
- an buga shi a
an fara bugawa
an gyara
an sake bugawa
an shirya a, an shirya shi a
analemba bukhuli m'Cingerezi ndi
anamasulira m'Cinyanja ndi
andiwet
Annabi
apá
arewa
Nijeriya ta Arewa
aseda
Askofu (plural Maaskofu)
Askofu Mkuu
ati
atira, *see* ti
Attaura
átúnṣe
átúnṣe kínní
" kejì
àwọ̀n òṣèrè
àwòrán láti ọ̀wọ̀
axa
- translated into Tswana by (Tswana)
written in Bemba by (Bemba)
- written by (Ndebele, Swati, Xhosa & Zulu)
- contents (Hausa)
contents (Hausa)
written by (Lingala)
many meanings including "first" (Efik);
part, section (Ewe)
book, letter, paper (Igbo)
Holy Bible
elder, Mr., Sir (Yoruba)
notes (Yoruba)
a Muslim who has made the pilgrimage
to Mecca (used before names) (Hausa, etc.)
assisted by (Swahili)
Judge (Hausa)
God (Hausa, etc.)
written by (Ndebele & Zulu)
priest, Reverend (Yoruba)
introduction, preface (Bemba)
Many phrases beginning with amazwi
("words") mean "introduction or
"preface" in Ndebele and Zulu
printed by (Hausa)
first printed, first published (Hausa)
improved, revised (Hausa)
reprinted (Hausa)
compiled at, published by (Hausa)
written in English by (Nyanja/Chewa)
translated into Nyanja by (Nyanja/Chewa)
author, writer (Efik)
Prophet (Hausa)
department, part, section (Yoruba)
north (Hausa)
Northern Nigeria
acknowledgements (Akan (Twi))
Bishop (Swahili)
Archbishop
and (Yoruba)
- Old Testament (Hausa)
edition (Yoruba)
first edition
second "
dramatis personae (Yoruba)
illustrations by (Yoruba)
page (Ewe)

B

baafa	page (Gã)
Baba	Father (many languages including Swahili)
Baba Mtakatifu	Holy Father, Pope (Swahili)
Baba ya Taifa	Father of the Nation (an epithet of Presidents Kenyatta of Kenya and Nyerere of Tanzania) (Swahili)
babi	chapter (Hausa)
bafetoledi, <i>see</i> mofetoledi	illustrated by (Tonga)
bakafanikisa zifwanikiso	written in English by (Tonga)
mba	translated into Tonga by (Tonga)
bakalemba bbuku eli	Mr. (Nyanja/Chewa)
mu-Cingisi mba	cabinet, conference, council, meeting (Swahili)
bakalisandula mu-Citonga	epistle, letter (Swahili)
mba	an Arab, a European, a white person (Hausa)
bakomi, <i>see</i> mokomi	book, volume (Shona)
bakwadi, <i>see</i> mokwadi	first prize-winning novel in the 19... writing competition
Bambo	these books are published by
bangwadi, <i>see</i> mongwadi	Lady, Madam, Miss, Mrs. (Swahili)
baraza	son, son of (Swahili, etc.)
barua	daughter, daughter of (Swahili, etc.)
Bature (plural Turawa)	print, publish (Hausa)
bhuku (plural mabhuku)	first published (Hausa)
bhuku iri rakawana	book, volume (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
mubayiro wokutanga	volume one (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
pamakundano okunyora	volume two (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
a-19...	" " (Southern Sotho)
mabhuku aya anodhindiwa	book, volume (Gikuyu, Lingala, Nyanja/Chewa, Tsonga, Yao, etc; <i>see also</i> ibuku)
ne-	volume one (Tsonga)
Bibi	" two "
bin, bini	" three "
bint, binti	anthology, collection (Shona)
buga	National Assembly, Parliament (Swahili)
bugun farko	Lord, Mr., Sir (Swahili, etc.)
buka	the Lord God (Swahili)
buka ea pele	Mr. Speaker (in parliamentary speeches) (Swahili)
" " bobedi	
" " bobeli	
buku (in Gikuyu, also ibuku and mbuku)	
buku yo sungula	
" ya vumbirhi	
" " vunharhu	
bumbiro	
Bunge	
Bw., Bwana (plural Mabwana)	
Bwana Mungu	
Bwana Spika	

C

Chama cha	Association of, Party of, Society of (Swahili)
Chama cha Afro-Shirazi	Afro-Shirazi Party (formerly the ruling party in Zanzibar)
" " Kikoministi	Communist Party
" " Mapinduzi	Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (the ruling party, formed in 1977 by the amalgamation of TANU and the Afro-Shirazi Party)
chapa	print, publish (Swahili)
chapa ya kwanza	first edition, impression, printing
" " pili	second " " "
" " tatu	third " " "
" " nne	fourth " " "
" " tano	fifth " " "
chapisho	publication (Swahili)
chidzidzo (plural zvidzidzo)	lesson (Shona)
chikamu	chapter, part, section (Shona)
chimanyisyo, <i>see</i> cimanyisyo	God (Igbo)
Chineke	act (of a play) (Shona)
chipande, <i>see</i> cipande	chapter (Shona)
chitambo	book; college, school; scholar (Swahili)
chitsauko	University
chuo	chapter (Tonga)
Chuo Kikuu	lesson (Tonga)
cibalo	chapter (Tonga)
cifundo	contents (Nyanja/Chewa)
ciyo	announcement, notice (Yao)
cilongosolo ca za mkatimu	chapter, part, section (Bemba, etc.)
cimanyisyo (or chimanyisyo)	part, section (Tonga)
cipaanzi, <i>see</i> cipanzi	book, volume (Bemba)
cipande (or chipande)	
cipanzi (or cipaanzi)	
citabo	

D

da	and, with (Hausa)
daga	by, from (Hausa)
dan	son of (Hausa)
darasa (plural madarasa)	class, lesson (Swahili)
dariro	scene (Shona)
detembedzo (plural madetembedzo)	poem (Shona)
di fetoletšwe mo puong ya Setšwana ké	translated into Tswana by (Tswana)
di kgobokantšwe ke	the compiler is (Northern Sotho)
dibaji	introduction, preface (Swahili)
dikagare	contents (Northern Sotho)
dikêta-pele, dikatapele	introduction, preface (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
ditaba tša puku ye	contents (Northern Sotho)
diteng	contents (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
dithulaganyo	contents (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
ditshupo	contents (Tswana)
diwani	collected works; Chief, Councillor (Swahili)

dondoo (plural madondoo)
dongosolo
duramazwi
dyondzo (plural tidyondzo)
dza ɔwɔ mu
dzakapepetwa na-

excerpt, quotation, selection (Swahili)
contents (Nyanja/Chewa)
dictionary (Shona)
lesson, subject, teaching (Tsonga)
contents (Akan (Fante))
chosen by, selected by (Shona)

E

e kwadilwe ke
ebem iso ikɔ, ebemiso ikɔ
ebhalwe ngu-
ebifaananyi byakolebwa, ebifaananyi
byakubibwa
ebirimu
ebisokerwako
ebuku
edinam
egugulwe esi Xoseni ngu, egugulwe
esiXoseni ngu-
egwuregwu
ekitabo, see kitabo
ekɔ
ekondua
ekono
ekyakyusibwa
elezo (plural maelezo)

elimu
elokubonga
emenyawo
emu nɛm
emume
endeleo (plural maendeleo)
maendeleo ya iktisadi
enjɔla
ɛni-ɔwɔ
ɛni ti ɔ ya ɔwɔrɔn ni
ennyingo
etanda ya nkasa
eti, see ti
Etubom
eyawandikibwa
ezihlungwe zahlelwa ngu-
eziphakathi
eziqukethwe

written by (Tswana)
introduction, preface (Efik)
written by (Ndebele, Swati, Xhosa & Zulu)

illustrated by (Ganda)
contents (Ganda, etc.)
introduction, preface (Ganda)
book, volume (Kongo)
act (of a play) (Efik)

translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)
drama, play (Igbo)

education, lesson, teaching (Yoruba)
chapter (Herero)
chapter (Kongo)
translated by (Ganda)
account, description, explanation
(Swahili)
education, learning, teaching (Swahili)
acknowledgements (Zulu)
contents (Ewe)
contents (Akan (Twi))
act (of a play), scene (Igbo)
development, progress (Swahili)
economic development
author, writer (Ewe)
Reverend (Yoruba)
illustrations by (Yoruba)
chapter (Ganda)
contents (Lingala)

Chief (Efik)
written by (Ganda)
selected and edited by (Zulu)
contents (Zulu)
contents (Zulu)

F

faharasi, faharisi, fahirisi
fetoletswe mo Setswaneng ke
fitowa

contents, index (Swahili)
translated into Tswana by (Tswana)
scene (Hausa)

G

gabatarwa
gazeti (plural magazeti)
gicigo

introduction, preface (Hausa)
magazine, newspaper, periodical (Swahili)
chapter, part, section (Gikuyu)

gĩtumi gĩa kabuku gaka
go mmadi
godiya
Gwamna, Gwamnan
Gwamnati, Gwamnatin

introduction, preface (Gikuyu)
introduction, preface (Tswana)
acknowledgements (Hausa)
Governor (Hausa)
Government (Hausa)

H

haano mamwe mabhuku akadhindiswa
neve-
habari

hadithi

na hadithi nyingine
Hajiya, see Alhaji
Hakimu (plural Mahakimu)
halmashauri
hi
Hosi
hotuba

other titles published by (Shona)
account, history, information, news
(Swahili)
story, stories, tradition, traditions
(Swahili)
and other stories

Judge; chief, ruler (Swahili)
committee, council (Swahili)
by (Tsonga)
Chief, King, Lord (Tsonga)
speech (Swahili)

I

i gugulwe nge siZulu ngu
i lotshwe ngu, see ilotshwe ngu-
ibalwe ngu-, see ibhalwe ngu-
ibanga
ibejiri
ibhalwe ngu- (or ibalwe ngu-)
ibhuku
ibika

ibuku, ibuku

ibuku rĩa mbere
" " kerĩ
" " gataũ
" " kana
" " gatano

ibuot
icandelo
idàn
idara

idwetshwe ngu-
ifanekiswe ngu-
ifihàn
ifijúbà
ifilimo
iguqulelwe esi-Xoseni ngu,
iguqulelwe esiXoseni ngu
iguqulelwe ngesiZulu ngu-
ihe dī (or diga) n'akwükwo a, ihe
e dere n'akwükwo, etc.
ihlelwe ngu-
ikhasi
ikpa

translated into Zulu by (Zulu)

book, volume (Zulu)
page (Igbo)
written by (Xhosa & Zulu)
book, volume (Zulu)
announcement, notice; introduction,
preface (Zulu)
book, volume (Bemba & Gikuyu; see also
buku)
volume one (Gikuyu)
" two "
" three "
" four "
" five "

chapter (Efik)
part, section (Xhosa)
act (of a play) (Yoruba)
department, part, section; publishing
house (Swahili)
drawn by (Ndebele & Zulu)
illustrated by (Ndebele & Zulu)
contents, index (Yoruba)
acknowledgements (Yoruba)
contents (Bemba)

translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)
translated into Zulu by (Zulu)

contents (Igbo)
arranged by, edited by (Zulu)
page (Ndebele & Zulu)
page (Efik)

ikpehe
 iktisadi
 ilandiswa ngu-
 ilimi, ilimin, ilmi, ilmin
 ilotshwe ngu- (or i lotshwe ngu)
 imbulambethe
 imeandikwa na
 imefasiriwa na
 imehaririwa na
 imepigwa chapa na
 imetafsiriwa na
 imetangazwa na
 imetolewa na
 imetungwa na
 imfanekiso } see umfanekiso
 imifanekiso
 incwadi (or inncwadi)
 incwadi yokuqala
 " yesibili
 " yesithatu
 indaba
 indima
 inganekwane
 ingxenye
 inkomba
 inkondlo
 INkosi
 inkundla
 inncwadi, see incwadi
 insha
 intetho yokugabula izigcawu
 intshayelelo
 intloko
 ipepa, see iphepha
 ipheji
 iphepha (or ipepa)
 iphethe ezokuthi, iphethe
 lezindaba, iphethe
 lezizihloko
 iqukethe lezi
 Iran
 irua rfa
 Isa
 isahluko (plural izahluko)
 isalathiso, isalatiso (or izalathiso,
 izalatiso
 isandulela, isandulelo
 isaziso
 iseq
 isethulo
 ishilimo
 ishiwi lyantanshi
 isi
 isibingelelo
 isifanekiso, see umfanekiso
 isifundo

part, scene, section (Efik)
 economics, economy (Swahili)
 narrated by, told by (Ndebele & Zulu)
 education, knowledge (Hausa)
 written by (Ndebele & Zulu)
 introduction, preface (Xhosa)
 written by (Swahili)
 explained by, translated by (Swahili)
 edited by (Swahili)
 printed by (Swahili)
 translated by (Swahili)
 issued by, published by (Swahili)
 issued by, published by (Swahili)
 written by (Swahili)
 book, letter, sign, volume (Ndebele,
 Xhosa & Zulu)
 volume one
 " two
 " three
 affair, news, report, story (Ndebele
 & Zulu)
 act (of a play) (Xhosa)
 children's story, fairy tale (Ndebele
 & Zulu)
 part, section (Ndebele & Zulu)
 contents (Zulu)
 introduction, preface (Ndebele & Zulu)
 Chief, Lord, King (Ndebele, Xhosa &
 Zulu)
 act (of a play) (Ndebele & Zulu)
 essay, essays (Swahili)
 introduction, preface (Xhosa)
 introduction, preface (Xhosa)
 chapter (Xhosa)
 page (Ndebele)
 page (Xhosa)
 contents (Zulu)
 contents (Zulu)
 act (of a play), scene (Yoruba)
 page (Gikuyu)
 Jesus (Ganda, Hausa, Swahili, etc.)
 chapter (Ndebele, Xhosa & Zulu)
 contents (Xhosa)
 introduction, preface (Ndebele, Xhosa
 & Zulu)
 announcement, notice (Ndebele, Xhosa
 & Zulu)
 labour, exercise, work; message (Yoruba)
 introduction, preface (Zulu)
 contents (Bemba)
 introduction, preface (Bemba)
 chapter (Igbo)
 greeting, introduction (Ndebele & Zulu)
 lesson (Ndebele & Zulu)

isigaba
 isigcawu
 isikokelo
 isincoko
 isingeniso
 isipho, isipo
 isiqulatho
 isishayelelo
 isithombe
 Itan
 Itoka, Itokasi
 itolikelwe esi Ndebeleni ngu-
 itsir
 Iwe
 Iwe kinnf
 " kejl
 izahluko, see isahluko
 izalathiso, izalatiso, see isalathiso
 izindaba eziphakathi
 izosha eziphakathi

ja-gora, ja-goran
 Jamhuri ya
 Jamhuri ya Muungano wa
 Tanzania
 Jamhuri ya Watu wa
 Jami'ar
 jarida
 jeri, jerin
 Jihar
 Jumbe (Plural Majumbe or Wajumbe)
 juzuu (plural majuzuu)

ka
 Kabaka
 Kadhi
 kafalitsidwa ndi
 kai (plural kanu)
 kamati
 kamfani, kamfanin
 Kamfanin Gaskiya
 Kamfanin Wallafa
 Littattafai na Nijeriya
 ta Arewa
 kamus
 kamusi
 kanisa (plural makanisa)
 kanu, see kai
 Kapa
 kapu
 karatathi

chapter, part, scene, section (Ndebele
 & Zulu)
 scene (Ndebele & Zulu)
 introduction, preface (Xhosa)
 anecdote, conversation, joke (Xhosa)
 introduction, preface (Ndebele, Xhosa
 & Zulu)
 dedication (Xhosa)
 contents (Xhosa)
 introduction, preface (Zulu)
 illustration, picture (Zulu)
 history, story (Yoruba)
 contents (Yoruba)
 translated into Ndebele by (Ndebele)
 chapter (Akan (Fante))
 book, paper, volume (Yoruba)
 volume one
 " two
 contents (Zulu)
 contents (Zulu)

J

guide, instruction-book (Hausa)
 Republic of (Swahili)
 United Republic of Tanzania
 People's Republic of
 University (Hausa)
 journal, periodical (Swahili)
 series (Hausa)
 State (Hausa)
 Chief, King; delegate, member (Swahili)
 chapter, part, section (Swahili)

K

by (Northern & Southern Sotho); of (Xhosa)
 King, Queen (Ganda)
 Moslem judge (Swahili)
 issued by, published by (Nyanja/Chewa)
 chapter; head (Hausa)
 committee (Swahili)
 company, corporation (Hausa)
 Gaskiya Corporation
 Northern Nigerian Publishing Company
 dictionary (Hausa)
 dictionary (Swahili)
 church (Swahili, etc.)
 Cape Town, Cape Province (Northern &
 Southern Sotho & Xhosa)
 chapter (Kongo)
 page (Gikuyu)

karolo, karolô	part, section (Northern Sotho & Tswana)	komiti (in Hausa also komitin)	committee (Hausa, Shona, Southern Sotho, Swahili, etc.)
kashi	act (of a play), chapter, part, section (Hausa)	kos	course (Hausa)
kasindikizidwa ndi	printed by (Nyanja/Chewa)	koyebisa kasa	contents (Lingala)
katibu	secretary; author, writer (Swahili)	kple	and, with (Ewe)
Katikkiro	Prime Minister (Ganda)	krataaafa	page (Akan (Fante))
Katonda	God (Ganda)	kratafa	page (Akan (Twi))
kavanyisa	act (of a play), chapter, half, part, section (Tsonga)	ku longoloka	contents (Tsonga)
kazi	employment, labour, work (Swahili)	kuandika	to write, writing (Swahili)
ke	by; is, are (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)	kuchapwa na	printed by (Swahili)
ketapele, kêtapele	introduction, preface (Northern Sotho & Tswana)	kufasiriwa na	explained by, translated by (Swahili)
kgaolo, kgaolô	act (of a play), chapter (Northern Sotho & Tswana)	kuguqulwe esi Xoseni ngu	translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)
Kgosi, Kgoši	Chief, King (Northern Sotho & Tswana)	kuhaririwa na	edited by (Swahili)
khaolo (plural likhaolo)	act (of a play), chapter (Southern Sotho)	kujanwa zibalo	contents (Tonga)
khatiso	edition, printing (Southern Sotho)	kurungus	the end (Hausa)
khatiso ea pele	first edition, printing	kusanyiko	anthology, collection (Swahili)
" " bobeli	second " "	kusoma	to read, reading (Swahili)
khethele	dedication (Southern Sotho)	kutengenezwa na	arranged by, corrected by, edited by (Swahili)
Kiarabu	Arabic (language) (Swahili)	kyakyusibwa	translated by (Ganda)
kichoro (plural vichoro)	drawing, engraving (Swahili)	kyawandiikibwa, kyawandikibwa	written by (Ganda)
Kiingereza	English (language) (Swahili)	kyereE ase	written by (Akan (Fante))
kijitabu (plural vijitabu)	booklet, pamphlet (Swahili)	kyerEwee	author, writer (Akan (Fante))
kilitungwa na	written by (Swahili)		
kimeandikwa na	written by (Swahili)		
kimeenezwa na	considered by, judged by, measured by (Swahili)		
kimefasiriwa na	explained by, translated by (Swahili)	labari, labarin	account, information, news, story (Hausa)
kimegeuzwa na	translated by (Swahili)	laguqulelwa e siXoseni ngu	translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)
kimehaririwa na	edited by (Swahili)	lati wqo	by (Yoruba)
kimenakiliwa	copied, reprinted (Swahili)	le	and, with (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
kimepigwa chapa na	printed by (Swahili)	lehloho	chapter (Southern Sotho)
kimesahihishwa na	corrected by, revised by (Swahili)	lenanêgô	contents (Tswana)
kimetafsiriwa na	translated by (Swahili)	lenaneo	contents (Northern & Southern Sotho)
kimetakaswa na	corrected by (Swahili)	lenaneo la litaba	contents (Southern Sotho)
kimetangazwa na	issued by, published by (Swahili)	lentsoe la ketapele	introduction, preface (Southern Sotho)
kimetayarishwa na	prepared by (Swahili)	leqephe (plural maqephe)	page (Southern Sotho)
kimetengenezwa na, kimetengezwa na	arranged by, corrected by, edited by (Swahili)	Lesá	God (Bemba, etc.)
kimetolewa na	issued by, published by (Swahili)	letlakala	page (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
kimetungwa na	written by (Swahili)	likahare	contents (Southern Sotho)
Kimvita	the Mombasa dialect of Swahili (Swahili)	likhaolo, see khaolo	
kinapatikana kwa	available from (Swahili)	Likita	Dr. (Hausa)
kiongozi (plural viongozi)	guide, leader (Swahili)	limeandikwa na	written by (Swahili)
kipigo chapa	impression, printing (Swahili)	linalembedwa ndi	written by (Nyanja/Chewa)
kisa (plural visa)	account, adventure, explanation, story, subject (Swahili)	Linjila	Gospels, New Testament (Hausa)
kitabo (or ekitabo)	book, volume (Ganda, etc.)	lipeji	page (Yao)
kitabu (plural vitabu)	book, volume (Swahili, etc.)	litafi, litafin, see littafi	
kitabu cha kwanza	volume one (Swahili)	lithoko, see thoko	
" " pili	" two "	lititi	page (Lingala)
" " tatu	" three "	litšomo, see tšomo	
" " nne	" four "	littafi, littafin (or litafi, litafin)	book, volume (Hausa)
" " tano	" five "	Littafi Mai Tsarki	Holy Bible
kitangulizi	introduction, preface (Swahili)	littafi na daya (or fari, farko)	volume one
kitendawili (plural vitendawili)	riddle (Swahili)	" " biyu	" two
Kiunguja	the Zanzibar dialect of Swahili (Swahili)	" " uku	" three
		" " hudu (or fudu)	" four
		" " biyar	" five
		liyebisa, liyebisa lia	
		nkasa	contents (Lingala)

L

liyingisi
lokasa (plural makasa or nkasa)
longoloka, nongoloka, nongonoka
lubangilo
lugha
lukaya
Lukiiko, Lukiko
lupapula (or olupapula)
lya kusaanguna

introduction, preface (Lingala)
page (Lingala)
contents (Tsonga)
introduction, preface (Bemba)
language, languages (Swahili)
page (Kongo)
Parliament (Ganda)
page (Ganda)
introduction, preface (Tonga)

matafsiri, *see* tafsiri
mateng
matseno
mau oyamba
maũhoro, *see* ũhoro
maũndu marĩa marĩ ho
mayani
Mazi
mbio mbre emi
mbon mbre
mbonakiso }
mbono }
mbuku *see* buku and ibuku
Mbunge (plural Wabunge)
mchapaji
mchapishaji
mchezo (plural michezo)
na michezo mingine
methali

contents (Northern & Southern Sotho)
introduction, preface (Northern Sotho)
introduction, preface (Nyanja/Chewa)

contents (Gikuyu)
page (Nyanja/Chewa)
Mr. (Igbo)
dramatis personae (Efik)
dramatis personae (Efik)
scene (Tsonga)

M

M. before Hausa names sometimes stands for Malam (q.v.).
Maalim
Dr., teacher (Swahili)

Maaskofu, *see* Askofu
mabhuku, *see* bhuku
Mabwana, *see* Bwana
madarasa, *see* darasa
madetembedzo, *see* detembedzo
madondoo, *see* dondoo
maelezo, *see* elezo
maendeleo, *see* endeleo
magazeti, *see* gazeti
magumo
Mahakimu, *see* Hakimu
mai, Mai (Hausa plural masu)

the end (Shona)

Mrs., mother (Shona); one who (Hausa);
as in the following phrases beginning
with mai (singular) or masu (plural)
printer, publisher
translator
compiler
author, writer
illustrator
dramatis personae
the life of (Swahili)

mai bugawa
mai fassara
mai shiryawa
mai talifi
mai zane-zane
masu wasa
maisha ya
Majumbe, *see* Jumbe
majuzuu, *see* juzuu
makala
makanisa, *see* kanisa
makasa, *see* lokasa
makomani na
maktaba
Malam, Mallam (feminine Malama)
Mama

article, contribution, feature (Swahili)

written by (Lingala)
library (Swahili)
Dr., teacher (Hausa)
Mother (many languages including
Swahili)
Mother Superior (Swahili)
introduction, preface (Swahili)

dead, deceased, the late (Swahili)

east (Swahili)
East Africa

Mama Mkubwa
maneno ya mbele
maqephe, *see* leqephe
Marehemu }
Marhum }
masanamu, *see* sanamu
mashairi, *see* shairi
mashamba, *see* shamba
mashariki
Afrika Mashariki }
Afrika ya Mashariki }
masimulizi, *see* simulizi
Masista, *see* Sista
masomo, *see* somo
masu, *see* mai

Mfalme
mfasiri (plural wafasiri)
mfuatano
mfululizo
mhariri (plural wahariri)
Mheshimiwa
mhinzo
miaka, *see* mwaka
michezo, *see* mchezo
mifananidzo, *see* mufananidzo
mikutano, *see* mkutano
milango, *see* mlango
mipango, *see* mpango
misemo, *see* msemu
mitambo, *see* mutambo
mitume, *see* mtume
mitwe ya makani, mitwe yamakani
mkusanyaji
mkutano (plural mikutano)
mkuu

mlango (plural milango)
mlinii
Mlungu, *see* Mulungu
mme ũwed, *see* ũwed
Modimo
mofetoledi (plural bafetoledi)
bafetoledi ke
mofetoledi ke
mokomi (plural bakomi)
mokwadi (plural bakwadi)
bakwadi ke
mokwadi ke
mola wa ntlha
Molimo
mongoli
mongoli ke
" oa
mongwadi (plural bangwadi)
bangwadi ke
mongwadi ke
Morena
Morena e Moholo

Member of Parliament (Swahili)
printer (Swahili)
publisher (Swahili)
drama, play; game, sport (Swahili)
and other plays
allegory, allegories, proverb, proverbs
(Swahili)
Chief, King, Sultan (Swahili)
translator (Swahili)
series (Swahili)
series (Swahili)
editor (Swahili)
the Honourable (Swahili)
introduction, preface (Shona)

contents (Tonga)
compiler (Swahili)
committee, conference, meeting (Swahili)
big, central, great, important, main
(Swahili)
chapter; door, gate (Swahili)
contents (Gã)

God (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
translator (Northern Sotho)
the translators are
the translator is
author, writer (Lingala)
author, writer (Tswana)
the authors are
the author is
contents (Tswana)
God (Southern Sotho)
author, writer (Southern Sotho)
the author is
author of
author, writer (Northern Sotho)
the authors are
the author is
Chief, King (Northern & Southern Sotho)
Paramount Chief (Southern Sotho)

mpango (plural mipango)
mpe
mpiga chapa, mpigachapa
(plural wapiga chapa, wapigachapa)
mсаada
msemo (plural misemo)
Mt. before of after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)
mtafsiri (plural watafsiri)
Mtakatifu (plural Watakatifu)
mtangazaji (plural watangazaji)
Mtemi (plural Watemi)
mtengenezi
mtengenezaji
Mtk. before or after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)
mtoa vitabu
mtoaaji
mtume (plural mitume)
mtungaji (plural watungaji)
mufananidzo (plural mifananidzo)
mifananidzo na-
Mufundhisi
Muhona
muhtasari
muhundzuluxi i
mukaddama
Mukama
Mulungu (or Mlungu)
Mungu
munyori
mupfuxeti i
musumo
mutambo (plural mitambo)
mutanen da ke cikin wasan
mutsari i
mutu
Mvita
mwaka (plural miaka, etc.)

mwakilishaji
Mwalimu (plural Waalimu, Walimu, etc.)
mwana

Mwana wa Mungu
mwandiki
mwandishi (plural waandishi)
Mwenyekiti
Mwenyi, Mwinyi
mwisho
mzee (plural wazee)

arrangement, plan (Swahili)
and (Lingala)

printer (Swahili)
assistance (Swahili)
proverb (Swahili)
translator (Swahili)
holy, holy man, Saint (Swahili)
publisher (Swahili)
Chief (Swahili)
editor (Swahili)
author, editor (Swahili)
publisher (Swahili)
publisher (Swahili)
apostle, messenger, prophet (Swahili)
author, writer (Swahili)
illustration, picture (Shona)
illustrations by
missionary, Reverend, teacher (Tsonga)
Lord (Herero)
abstract, summary (Swahili)
the translator is (Tsonga)
introduction, preface (Hausa)
Chief, King, Lord (Ganda)
God (Bemba, Nyanja/Chewa, Yao, etc.)
God (Swahili, etc.)
author, writer (Shona)
the adapter is (Tsonga)
introduction, preface (Shona)
drama, play (Shona)
dramatis personae (Hausa)
the author is (Tsonga)
chapter (Nyanja/Chewa)
Mombasa (Swahili)
year; volume (of a periodical) (Bemba, Gikuyu, Shona, Swahili, Tonga, etc.)
agent (Swahili)
Dr., teacher (Nyanja/Chewa, Swahili, etc.)
child, child of, son, son of (many Bantu languages including Swahili)
the Son of God (Swahili)
author, editor (Gikuyu)
author, writer; secretary (Swahili)
Chairman (Swahili)
Mr., Sir (Swahili)
the end (Swahili)
elder, father, old man (sometimes before names, e.g. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta) (Swahili)

N

na, na-

Nabii
nahawu, nahawun
Nana
ncaakalemba
nda tjangua i
ndakatulo
ndi

and (many languages including Swahili);
by (Bemba, Hausa, Lingala, Shona, Swahili,
etc.); of (Hausa)
Prophet (Swahili)
grammar (Hausa)
grandfather; Chief, King (Akan (Twi))
author, writer (Tonga)
written by (Herero)
poem, poems (Nyanja/Chewa)
many meanings including "and" and "by"
Nyanja/Chewa

ndi di n'egwuregwu a
ndi so n'egwuregwu a
ndiye munyori weriya
Ndugu

nduri
ndzima
ne
Ngai
ngano

ngadonya }
ngadzenya }
ngu, ngu-
nywed, see nywed
nhanganyaya
nhetembo
nhungamidzo
ni

nkand'a
nkasa, see lokasa
nke, nke
nkeji
nkotolo
nnianim
nnianim ne aseda
nongoloka }
nongonoka } longoloka
nsoneki, nsoniki
nywed (or nywed; plural mme nywed)
nywed emi nywed ke
nyanduri
nyaraka, see waraka
nyienyim
nyimbo, wimbo
nyongeza
nzaikusu
Nzambi

Oba, Oba
obhalwe ngu-
ogbēni
ojú ewé, ojú-lwé
okumunyethweyo
okuphakathi (or okupakathi)
okuqukethwe yilencwadi
okusencwadini
okwu mmalite, okwu mmalite
okyerswfo
Olórun
olotshwe ngu-
Olúbàdàn
olupapula, see lupapula
omboniso
òmòwé
ongezo
òni

dramatis personae (Igbo)
dramatis personae (Igbo)
also author of (Shona)
brother, comrade, kinsman; in Tanzania,
Mr., Miss, Mrs. (Swahili)
poem, poems, poetry (Shona)
act (of a play), chapter, part (Tsonga)
and, with (Ganda)
God (Gikuyu)
fable, fables, story, stories
(Swahili); fables, stories (Shona);
see also rungano

introduction, preface (Ewe)

by (Ndebele, Swati, Tonga, Xhosa & Zulu)

introduction, preface (Shona)
poem, poems, poetry (Shona)
introduction, preface (Shona)
and, with (Tsonga); by (Bemba); is, are
(Bemba, Swahili, etc.)
book, volume (Kongo)

by, of (Igbo)
part, scene, section (Igbo)
introduction, preface (Kongo)
introduction, preface (Akan (Twi))
acknowledgements

author, writer; secretary (Kongo)
book, letter, volume (Efik)
this book is published by
poet (Shona)

introduction, preface (Akan (Fante))

appendix, supplement (Swahili)
announcement, notice (Kongo)
God (Kongo, etc.)

O

King (Yoruba, etc.)
written by (Zulu)
Mr., Sir (Yoruba)
page (Yoruba)
contents (Ndebele)
contents (Ndebele, Xhosa & Zulu)
contents (Zulu)
contents (Zulu)
introduction, preface (Igbo)
author, writer (Akan (Twi))
God (Yoruba)
written by (Ndebele)
King (Yoruba)

scene (Xhosa)
Dr. (Yoruba)
addendum, addition (Swahili)
King (Yoruba)

òpin
orí
òrò

the end (Yoruba)
chapter (Yoruba)
speech, words; many phrases so
beginning mean "introduction" or
"preface" (Yoruba)
catalogue, list, table (Swahili)
contents (Herero)

orodha
oviuru

P

papila
pego
peji
pèlú
pepanhau
pheji
picha

page (Tsonga)
announcement, notice (Northern Sotho)
page (Shona, Tonga, etc.)
also, with (Yoruba)
newspaper (Shona)
page (Tsonga)
illustration, illustrations, picture,
pictures (Swahili)
illustrations by
scene (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
book, volume (Northern Sotho)
volume one
" " two

picha zimechorwa na
pono
puku
puku ea pele
" " bobedi

R

rabo

Rais, Raisi
rakabuda muna
rĩandĩkitwo nĩ
rimwe bhuku nomunyori uyu, rimwe
bhuku rakanyorwa nomunyori uyu

ripoti
risala
risimu
rĩtaurĩtwo nĩ
rito ro rhanga, rito ro sungula, etc.
rungano (plural ngano)
rungano urwu rwakanyorwa
na-, rungano urwu rwebhuku iri
rwakanyorwa na-
rutendo

act (of a play), chapter, part, section
(Hausa)
President (Swahili)
first published in (Shona)
written by (Gikuyu)

another title by this author (Shona)
report (Swahili)
message (Swahili)
hymn, song (Tsonga)
translated by (Gikuyu)
introduction, preface (Tsonga)
fable, story (Shona; *see also* ngano)

this story written by
acknowledgements (Shona)

S

sahihisho
sala
sanamu (plural sanamu or masanamu)
Sarki, Sarkin
se idude ke gwed emi
see idude ke ñwed, se idude ke
gwed emi
sehemu
sephaphela

correction, corrigendum (Swahili)
prayer (Swahili, etc.)
illustration, picture, statue (Swahili)
Emir, King (Hausa)
contents (Efik)

contents (Efik)
act (of a play), department, part,
section (Swahili)
introduction, preface (Tswana)

Serikali ya
seripa

shada
shada la mashairi
shafi
shairi (plural mashairi)
shamba (plural mashamba)

sherehe
sheri'a, sheria
shukrani
shumo (or tsumo)
sifundvo
Sikwembu
silotshwe ngu-
simulizi (plural masimulizi)

Sista (plural Masista)
somo (plural masomo)
soni uwalundenye nde
Sultani
sura

swifaniso, *see* xifaniso

the Government of (Swahili)
half, part, section (Northern Sotho
& Tswana)
anthology, collection (Swahili)
anthology of poems
page (Hausa)
quatrain; poem, song, verse (Swahili)
farm, plantation, plot of land
(Swahili)
list, table (Swahili)
law (Hausa & Swahili)
acknowledgements (Swahili)
proverb, proverbs (Shona)
lesson (Swati)
God (Tsonga)
written by (Ndebele)
account, news, story, tradition
(Swahili)
nun, sister (Swahili)
lesson, letter, reading (Swahili, etc.)
arranged by, edited by (Yao)
Chief, King, Sultan (Hausa & Swahili)
chapter (Ganda, Swahili, etc.);
illustration, map, picture (Hausa)

T

ta
taarifa
taarifa ya mwaka
Taasisi
tabaa
tafsiri (plural matafsiri)

tarehe
tarihi, tarihin
tema

temana

tenzi, *see* utenzi
thoko (plural lithoko)
thulagano, thulaganyo,
thulaganyô (often followed by
other words)
thuto, thutô

ti (in Twi also eti with plural
atira)
tidyondzo, *see* dyondzo
tlaleho
tlhaka ea ntsha
toleo
tsa go felegetsa
tsamba
tsebe, tsêbê, tsèbè
tšomo (plural litšomo)

by, of (Hausa); chapter (Ewe)
information, news, report (Swahili)
annual report, report for the year
College, Institute, School (Swahili)
impression, printing (Swahili)
commentary, explanation, translation
(Swahili)
date, history; journey (Swahili)
history (Hausa)
act (of a play), scene (Northern &
Southern Sotho & Tswana)
act (of a play), chapter, scene, verse
(Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)

hymn, poem, song (Southern Sotho)

contents (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
lesson, teaching (Northern &
Southern Sotho & Tswana)

chapter (Akan (Twi)); of (Yoruba)

report (Southern Sotho)
introduction, preface (Tswana)
edition, issue (Swahili)
introduction, preface (Tswana)
page (Nyanja/Chewa)
page (Southern Sotho & Tswana)
story (Southern Sotho)

tsumo, *see* shumo
tume

tungo, *see* utungo
Turanci
Turawa, *see* Bature

U

uandishi
uchambuzi
Ufaransa
uhlu lwezifundo
ũhoro (plural maũhoro)

maũhoro me mbuku ũno
ũhoro wa kwambĩrĩria
ũhoro wa mwandĩki

uhuru
Uingereza
ujamaa

Ujerumani
ukubonga
ukugabula izigcawa
ukurasa
ukusantika
ukushicilela
ukuvuma
Ulaya
uluhlu lwemihobe, uluhlu
lwezahlu, uluhlu
lwezifundo

umbhali
umbiko

umboniso
umdlalo
umefasiriwa na
umehaririwa na
umetafsiriwa na
umfanekiso (or isifanekiso;
plural imfanekiso or imifanekiso)

imfanekiso yenziwe ngu-
umhleli
umlobi (plural abalobi)
umoja
Umoja Kisoviet
Umoja wa Mataifa
umqulu okhishwayo
Unguja
Urusi
ushairi
al-Ustadh

utangulizi
utenzi (plural tenzi)

commission, committee, delegation,
ministry, mission; one who is appointed
or sent (many English translations)
(Swahili)

English (Hausa)

literature, writing; style (Swahili)
criticism (Swahili)
France (Swahili)
contents (Zulu)
account, message, news, speech,
subject (Gikuyu)
contents

introduction, preface

freedom, independence (Swahili)
England, Britain (Swahili)
community, family, society; in Tanzania,
President Nyerere's brand of socialism
(Swahili)
Germany (Swahili)
acknowledgements (Ndebele & Zulu)
introduction, preface (Zulu)
page (Swahili)
acknowledgements (Bemba)
printing (Zulu)
acknowledgements (Ndebele)
Europe; home, native land (Swahili)

contents (Xhosa)
author, writer (Ndebele, Xhosa & Zulu)
announcement, report (Ndebele, Xhosa
& Zulu)
scene (Xhosa)
drama, play (Xhosa & Zulu)
explained by, translated by (Swahili)
edited by (Swahili)
translated by (Swahili)

illustration, picture (Ndebele, Xhosa
& Zulu)
illustrations by (Xhosa & Zulu)
compiler, editor (Ndebele, Xhosa & Zulu)
author, writer (Ndebele & Zulu)
union, unity (Swahili)
Soviet Union
United Nations
publication (Zulu)
Zanzibar (Swahili)
Russia, the U.S.S.R. (Swahili)
poetry (Swahili)
learned one, Master (Arabic, used
before or after Swahili names)
introduction, preface (Swahili)
epic or narrative poem; activity,
work (Swahili)

UTixo
utungo (plural tungo)
tungo za
utungo wa
uwalebele ni
uwalembile nde
uwalengele ifikope ni
uwapilibwilile ni

God (Xhosa)
composition, work (Swahili)
compositions of, works of
composition of, work of
written by (Bemba)
written by (Yao)
illustrated by (Bemba)
translated by (Bemba)

V

Va-
vatambi vorungano
vatlangi
vichoro, *see* kichoro
vijitabu, *see* kijitabu
viongozi, *see* kiongozi
visa, *see* kisa
vitabu, *see* kitabu
vitendawili, *see* kitendawili
vutomi bya

Mr. (Shona)
dramatis personae (Shona)
dramatis personae (Tsonga)

the life of (Tsonga)

W

Waalimu, *see* Mwalimu
waandishi, *see* mwandishi
Wabunge, *see* Mbunge
wafasiri, *see* mfasiri
wahariri, *see* mhariri
Wajumbe, *see* Jumbe
waka, wakar (plural wakoki, wakokin)
wakalilemba ngu
wakar, *see* waka
wakishirikiana
wakoki, wakokin, *see* waka
wali, walin
Walimu, *see* Mwalimu
wamwafwile ni
wapiga chapa, wapigachapa, *see* mpiga chapa

poem, song (Hausa)
written by (Tonga)

with the collaboration of (Swahili)

father, saint (Hausa)

translated by (Bemba)

letter (Swahili)

drama, play (Hausa)
biography, description (Swahili)

waraka (plural nyaraka)
wasa, wasan (plural wasanni,
wasannin)
wasifu
watafsiri, *see* mtafsiri
Watakatifu, *see* Mtakatifu
watangazaji, *see* mtangazaji
Watemi, *see* Mtemi
watungaji, *see* mtungaji
wazee, *see* mzee
Waziri (in Hausa also Wazirin)

Waziri Mkuu
wimbo (plural nyimbo)
Wizara ya

Minister, Prime Minister, Vizier
(Hausa & Swahili)
Prime Minister (Swahili)
hymn, song (Swahili, etc.)
Ministry of (Swahili)

X

xifaniso (plural swifaniso)
xiviko
xivono
xiyenge

illustration, picture (Tsonga)
announcement, notice (Tsonga)
scene (Tsonga)
act (of a play), chapter, part,
section (Tsonga)

Y

ya rubuta
yakapindurirwa kuShona na-
yaki da jahilici

has written it, wrote it (Hausa)
translated into Shona by (Shona)
down with ignorance! (Hausa) (N.B.
This slogan sometimes appears on
publications in languages other than
Hausa)).

yalitungwa na
yaliyokusanywa na
yaliyomo
yamekusanywa na
yametegemea
yenziwe ngu-
yitfo
yolembedwa ndi

written by (Swahili)
collected by, compiled by (Swahili)
contents (Swahili)
collected by, compiled by (Swahili)
based on (Swahili)
made by, written by (Xhosa & Zulu)
chapter (Gǀ)
written by (Nyanja/Chewa)

Z

za mkati'mu
zam'bwalo
Zazzau
zib'alwe ngu-
zibutwe ngu-
zifwanikiso zyakasimbwa a
zili moomu, zili mubbuku
zilizochaguliwa na
zilotshwe ngu-
zimeandikwa na
zimefasiriwa na
zimehaririwa na
zimesimuliwa na
zimetolewa na
zimetungwa na
ziqoqwe ngu-
ziqoqwe zahlelwa ngu-
ziviso yokutenda
zosonkhanitsidwa ndi
zvapera
zvidzidzo, *see* chidzidzo
zviri mubhuku, zviri mukati

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