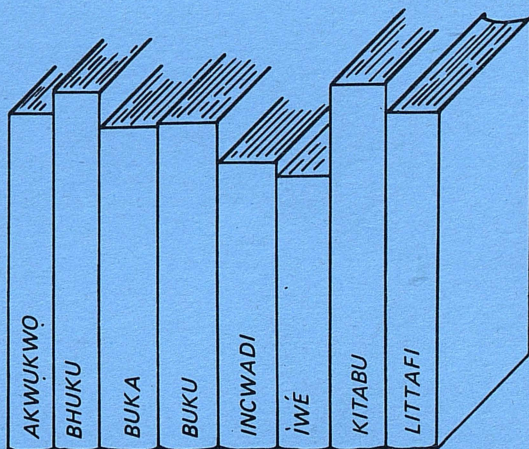


AN AFRICAN-LANGUAGE GLOSSARY FOR CATALOGUERS

compiled by

Martin Lyon



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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	Xhosa
Ganda	Nyanja/Chewa	Yao
Gikuyu	Shona	Yoruba
Hausa	Southern Sotho	Zulu

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Martin Lyon
The Library
School of Oriental and African Studies

THE GLOSSARY

A

a fetolecoe mo puong ea

Secoana ke

abalembete 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

akwykwọ, akwəkwo

Akwýkwọ Nsọ

Alágbá

Àlàyé, àlàyé ọ̀rọ̀

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

àtúnge

àtúnge kinní

" kejì

àwọn ọ̀ṣẹ̀rẹ̀

àwórán láti ọwọ̀

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
Baba

Baba Mtakatifu
Baba ya Taifa

babi
bafetoledi, *see* mofetoledi
bakafanikisa zifwanikiso
mba

bakalemba bbuku eli
mu-Cingisi mba
bakalisandula mu-Citonga
mba

bakomi, *see* mokomi
bakwadi, *see* mokwadi
Bambo
bangwadi, *see* mongwadi
baraza

barua
Bature (plural Turawa)

bhuku (plural mabhuku)
bhuku iri rakawana
mubayiro wokutanga
pamakundano okunyora
a-19...

mabhuku aya anodhindiswa
ne-

Bibi
bin, bini
bint, binti
buga
bugun farko
buka

buka ea pele

" " 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

page (Gǎ)
Father (many languages including
Swahili)
Holy Father, Pope (Swahili)
Father of the Nation (an epithet of
Presidents Kenyatta of Kenya and
Nyerere of Tanzania) (Swahili)
chapter (Hausa)

illustrated by (Tonga)

written in English by (Tonga)

translated into Tonga by (Tonga)

Mr. (Nyanja/Chewa)

cabinet, conference, council, meeting
(Swahili)

epistle, letter (Swahili)
an Arab, a European, a white person
(Hausa)

book, volume (Shona)

first prize-winning novel in the 19...
writing competition

these books are published by
Lady, Madam, Miss, Mrs. (Swahili)
son, son of (Swahili, etc.)
daughter, daughter of (Swahili, etc.)
print, publish (Hausa)
first published (Hausa)
book, volume (Northern & Southern
Sotho & Tswana)
volume one (Northern & Southern Sotho
& Tswana)
volume two (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
" " (Southern Sotho)

book, volume (Gikuyu, Lingala, Nyanja/
Chewa, Tsonga, Yao, etc; *see also* ibuku)
volume one (Tsonga)
" two "
" three "

anthology, collection (Shona)
National Assembly, Parliament (Swahili)
Lord, Mr., Sir (Swahili, etc.)
the Lord God (Swahili)
Mr. Speaker (in parliamentary speeches)
(Swahili)

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	
Chineke	God (Igbo)
chipande, <i>see</i> cipande	
chitambo	act (of a play) (Shona)
chitsauko	chapter (Shona)
chuo	book; college, school; scholar (Swahili)
Chuo Kikuu	University
cibalo	chapter (Tonga)
cifundo	lesson (Tonga)
ciiyo	chapter (Tonga)
cilongosolo ca za mkatimu	contents (Nyanja/Chewa)
cimanyisyo (or chimanyisyo)	announcement, notice (Yao)
cipaanzi, <i>see</i> cipanzi	
cipande (or chipande)	chapter, part, section (Bemba, etc.)
cipanzi (or cipaanzi)	part, section (Tonga)
citabo	book, volume (Bemba)

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
dzakaepetwa 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
eguqulwe esi Xoseni ngu, eguqulwe
esiXhoseni ngu-
egwuregwu
ekitabo, *see* kitabo
ɛkɔ
ekondua
ekono
ekyakusibwa
elezo (plural maelezo)

elimu
elokubonga
emenyawo
emu nɛm
emume
endeleo (plural maendeleo)
maendeleo ya iktisadi
enɔla
Eni-ɔwɔ
ɛni ti ɔ ya àwòrán 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)
gĩcigo

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 guqulwe nge siZulu ngu
i lotshwe ngu, *see* ilotshwe ngu-
ibalwe ngu-, *see* ibhalwe ngu-
ibanga
ibejiri
ibhalwe ngu- (or ibalwe ngu-)
ibhuku
ibika
ibuku, ibũku
ibuku rĩa mbere
" " kerĩ
" " gatatũ
" " kana
" " gatano
ibuot
icandelo
idàn
idara
idwetshwe ngu-
ifanekiswe ngu-
ìfihàn
ìfijúbà
ifilimo
iguqulelwe esi-Xoseni ngu,
iguqulelwe esiXhoseni ngu
iguqulwe ngesiZulu ngu-
ihe dī (or diga) n'akwĩkwq̣ a, ihe
e dere n'akwĩkwq̣, 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
 ingxenywe
 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
 ĩran
 irũa rĩa
 Isa
 isahluko (plural izahluko)
 isalathiso, isalatiso (or izalathiso,
 izalatiso
 isandulela, isandulelo
 isaziso
 isê
 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	chapter, part, scene, section (Ndebele & Zulu)
isigcawu	scene (Ndebele & Zulu)
isikokelo	introduction, preface (Xhosa)
isincoko	anecdote, conversation, joke (Xhosa)
isingenisiso	introduction, preface (Ndebele, Xhosa & Zulu)
isipho, isipo	dedication (Xhosa)
isiqukatho	contents (Xhosa)
isishayelelo	introduction, preface (Zulu)
isithombe	illustration, picture (Zulu)
ìtàn	history, story (Yoruba)
ìtòka, ìtókasi	contents (Yoruba)
itolikelwe esi Ndebeleni ngu-	translated into Ndebele by (Ndebele)
itsir	chapter (Akan (Fante))
ìwé	book, paper, volume (Yoruba)
ìwé kinní	volume one
" kejì	" two
izahluko, <i>see</i> isahluko	
izalathiso, izalatiso, <i>see</i> isalathiso	contents (Zulu)
izindaba eziphakathi	contents (Zulu)
izosha eziphakathi	

J

ja-gora, ja-goran	guide, instruction-book (Hausa)
Jamhuri ya	Republic of (Swahili)
Jamhuri ya Muungano wa	
Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania
Jamhuri ya Watu wa	People's Republic of
Jami'ar	University (Hausa)
jarida	journal, periodical (Swahili)
jeri, jerin	series (Hausa)
Jihar	State (Hausa)
Jumbe (Plural Majumbe or Wajumbe)	Chief, King; delegate, member (Swahili)
juzuu (plural majuzuu)	chapter, part, section (Swahili)

K

ka	by (Northern & Southern Sotho); of (Xhosa)
Kabaka	King, Queen (Ganda)
Kadhi	Moslem judge (Swahili)
kafalitsidwa ndi	issued by, published by (Nyanja/Chewa)
kai (plural kanu)	chapter; head (Hausa)
kamati	committee (Swahili)
kamfani, kamfanin	company, corporation (Hausa)
Kamfanin Gaskiya	Gaskiya Corporation
Kamfanin Wallafa	
Littattafai na Nijeriya	
ta Arewa	
kamus	Northern Nigerian Publishing Company
kamusi	dictionary (Hausa)
kanisa (plural makanisa)	dictionary (Swahili)
kanu, <i>see</i> kai	church (Swahili, etc.)
Kapa	
kapu	Cape Town, Cape Province (Northern & Southern Sotho & Xhosa)
karatathi	chapter (Kongo)
	page (Gikuyu)

karolo, karolô	part, section (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
kashi	act (of a play), chapter, part, section (Hausa)
kasindikizidwa ndi	printed by (Nyanja/Chewa)
katibu	secretary; author, writer (Swahili)
Katikkiro	Prime Minister (Ganda)
Katonda	God (Ganda)
kavanyisa	act (of a play), chapter, half, part, section (Tsonga)
kazi	employment, labour, work (Swahili)
ke	by; is, are (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
ketapele, kêtapele	introduction, preface (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
kgalo, kgaolô	act (of a play), chapter (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
Kgosi, Kgoši	Chief, King (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
khaolo (plural likhaolo)	act (of a play), chapter (Southern Sotho)
khatiso	edition, printing (Southern Sotho)
khatiso ea pele	first edition, printing
" " bobeli	second " "
khethele	dedication (Southern Sotho)
Kiarabu	Arabic (language) (Swahili)
kichoro (plural vichoro)	drawing, engraving (Swahili)
Kiingereza	English (language) (Swahili)
kijitabu (plural vijitabu)	booklet, pamphlet (Swahili)
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)
kimegeuzwa na	translated by (Swahili)
kimelhaririwa na	edited by (Swahili)
kimenakiliwa	copied, reprinted (Swahili)
kimepigwa chapa na	printed by (Swahili)
kimesahihishwa na	corrected by, revised by (Swahili)
kimetafsiriwa na	translated by (Swahili)
kimetakaŵa na	corrected by (Swahili)
kimetangazwa na	issued by, published by (Swahili)
kimetayarishwa na	prepared by (Swahili)
kimetengenezwa na, kimetengezwa na	arranged by, corrected by, edited by (Swahili)
kimetolewa na	issued by, published by (Swahili)
kimetungwa na	written by (Swahili)
Kimvita	the Mombasa dialect of Swahili (Swahili)
kinapatikana kwa	available from (Swahili)
kiongozi (plural viongozi)	guide, leader (Swahili)
kipigo chapa	impression, printing (Swahili)
kisa (plural visa)	account, adventure, explanation, story, subject (Swahili)
kitabo (or ekitabo)	book, volume (Ganda, etc.)
kitabũ (plural vitabũ)	book, volume (Swahili, etc.)
kitabũ cha kwanza	volume one (Swahili)
" " pili	" two "
" " tatu	" three "
" " nne	" four "
" " tano	" five "
kitangulizi	introduction, preface (Swahili)
kitendawili (plural vitendawili)	riddle (Swahili)
Kiunguja	the Zanzibar dialect of Swahili (Swahili)

komiti (in Hausa also komitin)

kos

koyebisa kasa

kple

krataafa

kratafa

ku longoloka

kuandika

kuchapwa na

kufasiriwa na

kuguqulwe esi Xoseni ngu

kuhaririwa na

kujanwa zibalo

kurungus

kusanyiko

kusoma

kutengenezwa na

kyakyusibwa

kyawandikibwa, kyawandikibwa

kyerɛ ase

kyerɛwee

committee (Hausa, Shona, Southern Sotho, Swahili, etc.)

course (Hausa)

contents (Lingala)

and, with (Ewe)

page (Akan (Fante))

page (Akan (Twi))

contents (Tsonga)

to write, writing (Swahili)

printed by (Swahili)

explained by, translated by (Swahili)

translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)

edited by (Swahili)

contents (Tonga)

the end (Hausa)

anthology, collection (Swahili)

to read, reading (Swahili)

arranged by, corrected by, edited by (Swahili)

translated by (Ganda)

written by (Ganda)

written by (Akan (Fante))

author, writer (Akan (Fante))

L

labari, labarin

laguqulelwa e siXoseni ngu

lati qwq

le

lehloho

lenanêgô

lenaneo

lenaneo la litaba

lentsoe la ketapele

leqephe (plural maqephe)

Lesa

letlakala

likahare

likhaolo, *see* khaolo

Likita

limeandikwa na

linalembedwa ndi

Linjila

lipeji

litafi, litafin, *see* littafi

lithoko, *see* thoko

lititi

litšomo, *see* tšomo

littafi, littafin (or litafi, litafin)

Littafi Mai Tsarki

littafi na daya (or fari, farko)

" " biyu

" " uku

" " hudu (or fudu)

" " biyar

liyebisa, liyebisa lia

nkasa

account, information, news, story (Hausa)

translated into Xhosa by (Xhosa)

by (Yoruba)

and, with (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)

chapter (Southern Sotho)

contents (Tswana)

contents (Northern & Southern Sotho)

contents (Southern Sotho)

introduction, preface (Southern Sotho)

page (Southern Sotho)

God (Bemba, etc.)

page (Northern Sotho & Tswana)

contents (Southern Sotho)

Dr. (Hausa)

written by (Swahili)

written by (Nyanja/Chewa)

Gospels, New Testament (Hausa)

page (Yao)

page (Lingala)

book, volume (Hausa)

Holy Bible

volume one

" two

" three

" four

" five

contents (Lingala)

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)

M

M. before Hausa names sometimes stands for Malam (q.v.).

Maalim
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)

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

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

Dr., teacher (Swahili)

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)

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

matafsiri, *see* tafsiri

mateng

matseno

mau oyamba

maũhoro, *see* ũhoro

maũndu marĩa marĩ ho

mayani

Mazĩ

mbio mbre emi

mbon mbre

mbonakiso }

mbono }

mbuku, *see* buku and ibuku

Mbunge (plural Wabunge)

mchapaji

mchapishaji

mchezo (plural michezo)

na michezo mingine

methali

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 űwed, *see* űwed

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

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)

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)	arrangement, plan (Swahili)
mpe	and (Lingala)
mpiga chapa, mpigachapa	printer (Swahili)
(plural wapiga chapa, wapigachapa)	assistance (Swahili)
msaada	proverb (Swahili)
msemo (plural misemo)	Mt. before of after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)-
Mt. before of after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)-	translator (Swahili)
mtafsiri (plural watafsiri)	holy, holy man, Saint (Swahili)
Mtakatifu (plural Watakatifu)	publisher (Swahili)
mtangazaji (plural watangazaji)	Chief (Swahili)
Mtemi (plural Watemi)	editor (Swahili)
mtengenezi	author, editor (Swahili)
mtengenezaji	Mtk. before or after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)-
Mtk. before or after saints' names in Swahili stands for Mtakatifu (q.v.)-	publisher (Swahili)
mtoa vitabu	publisher (Swahili)
mtoaaji	apostle, messenger, prophet (Swahili)
mtume (plural mitume)	author, writer (Swahili)
mtungaji (plural watungaji)	illustration, picture (Shona)
mufananidzo (plural mifananidzo)	illustrations by
mifananidzo na-	missionary, Reverend, teacher (Tsonga)
Mufundhisi	Lord (Herero)
Muhona	abstract, summary (Swahili)
muhtasari	the translator is (Tsonga)
muhundzuluxi i	introduction, preface (Hausa)
mukaddama	Chief, King, Lord (Ganda)
Mukama	God (Bemba, Nyanja/Chewa, Yao, etc.)
Mulungu (or Mlungu)	God (Swahili, etc.)
Mungu	author, writer (Shona)
munyoru	the adapter is (Tsonga)
mupfuxeti i	introduction, preface (Shona)
musumo	drama, play (Shona)
mutambo (plural mitambo)	dramatis personae (Hausa)
mutanen da ke cikin wasan	the author is (Tsonga)
mitsari i	chapter (Nyanja/Chewa)
mutu	Mombasa (Swahili)
Mvita	year; volume (of a periodical) (Bemba, Gikuyu, Shona, Swahili, Tonga, etc.)
mwaka (plural miaka, etc)	agent (Swahili)
	Dr., teacher (Nyanja/Chewa, Swahili, etc.)
mwakilishaji	child, child of, son, son of (many Bantu languages including Swahili)
Mwalimu (plural Waalimu, Walimu, etc.)	the Son of God (Swahili)
mwana	author, editor (Gikuyu)
	author, writer; secretary (Swahili)
Mwana wa Mungu	Chairman (Swahili)
mwandiki	Mr., Sir (Swahili)
mwandishi (plural waandishi)	the end (Swahili)
Mwenyekiti	elder, father, old man (sometimes before names, e.g. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta) (Swahili)
Mwenyi, Mwinyi	
mwisho	
mzee (plural wazee)	

N

na, na-	and (many languages including Swahili);
	by (Bemba, Hausa, Lingala, Shona, Swahili, etc.); of (Hausa)
Nabii	Prophet (Swahili)
nahawu, nahawun	grammar (Hausa)
Nana	grandfather; Chief, King (Akan (Twi))
ncaakalemba	author, writer (Tonga)
nda tjangua i	written by (Herero)
ndakatulo	poem, poems (Nyanja/Chewa)
ndi	many meanings including "and" and "by"
	Nyanja/Chewa

ndị dī n'egwuregwu a
ndị so n'egwuregwu a
ndiye munyori weriya
Ndugu

nduri
ndzima
ne
Ngai
ngano

ngɔdonya }
ngɔdzenya }
ngu, ngu-
ɲwed, *see* ɲwed
nhanganyaya
nhetembo
nhungamidzo
ni

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

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

Ọba, Oba
obhalwe ngu-
Ọgbɛni
ojú ewé, ojú-lwé
okumunyethweyo
okuphakathi (or okupakathi)
okuqukethwe yilencwadi
okusencwadini
okwu mmalite, okwu nmalite
okyerawfo
Olórún
olotshwe ngu-
Olúbàdàn
olupapula, *see* lupapula
omboniso
Ọmọwé
ongezo
Ọni

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

orodha
oviuru

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

P

papila
pego
peji
pèlú
pepanhau
pheji
picha

picha zimechorwa na
pono
puku
puku ea pele
" " bobedi

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

R

rabo

Rais, Raisi
rakabuda muna
rīandīkīt看 nī
rimwe bhuku nomunyorì uyu, rimwe
bhuku rakanyorwa nomunyorì uyu
ripoti
risala
risimu
rītaūřīt看 nī
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 idəŋɔde ke ŋwed emi
see idude ke ŋwed, se idude ke
ŋwed 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	the Government of (Swahili) half, part, section (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
shada shada la mashairi	anthology, collection (Swahili) anthology of poems
shafi	page (Hausa)
shairi (plural mashairi)	quatrain; poem, song, verse (Swahili)
shamba (plural mashamba)	farm, plantation, plot of land (Swahili)
sherehe	list, table (Swahili)
sheri'a, sheria	law (Hausa & Swahili)
shukrani	acknowledgements (Swahili)
shumo (or tsumo)	proverb, proverbs (Shona)
gifundvo	lesson (Swati)
Šikwembu	God (Tsonga)
silotshwe ngu-	written by (Ndebele)
simulizi (plural masimulizi)	account, news, story, tradition (Swahili)
Sista (plural Masista)	nun, Sister (Swahili)
somo (plural masomo)	lesson, letter, reading (Swahili, etc.)
soni uwalundenye nde	arranged by, edited by (Yao)
Sultani	Chief, King, Sultan (Hausa & Swahili)
sura	chapter (Ganda, Swahili, etc.); illustration, map, picture (Hausa)
swifaniso, <i>see</i> xifaniso	

T

ta	by, of (Hausa); chapter (Ewe)
taarifa	information, news, report (Swahili)
taarifa ya mwaka	annual report, report for the year
Taasisi	College, Institute, School (Swahili)
tabaa	impression, printing (Swahili)
tafsiri (plural matafsiri)	commentary, explanation, translation (Swahili)
tarehe	date, history; journey (Swahili)
tarihi, tarihin	history (Hausa)
tema	act (of a play), scene (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
temana	act (of a play), chapter, scene, verse (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
tenzi, <i>see</i> utenzi	hymn, poem, song (Southern Sotho)
thoko (plural lithoko)	contents (Northern Sotho & Tswana)
thulagano, thulaganyo, thulaganyô (often followed by other words)	lesson, teaching (Northern & Southern Sotho & Tswana)
thuto, thutô	
ti (in Twi also eti with plural atira)	chapter (Akan (Twi)); of (Yoruba)
tidyondzo, <i>see</i> dyondzo	
tlaleho	report (Southern Sotho)
tlhaka ea ntlha	introduction, preface (Tswana)
toleo	edition, issue (Swahili)
tša go felegetsa	introduction, preface (Tswana)
tsamba	page (Nyanja/Chewa)
tsebe, tsêbê, tsèbè	page (Southern Sotho & Tswana)
tšomo (plural litšomo)	story (Southern Sotho)

tsumo, *see* shumo
tume

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

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

English (Hausa)

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
 lwezahluko, 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)

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
 uwalembete 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)

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)

letter (Swahili)

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

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 jahilci

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

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)).
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
ziquqwe ngu-
 ziquqwe zahlelwa ngu-
ziviso yokutenda
zosonkhanitsidwa ndi
zvapera
zvidzidzo, *see* chidzidzo
zviri mubhuku, zviri mukati

contents (Nyanja/Chewa)
contents (Nyanja/Chewa)
Zaria (Hausa)
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collected by, compiled by (Xhosa)
illustrated by (Tonga)
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