

Language Contact and Borrowing: The Influence of Arabic on Swahili

Adrian Martinez

Prof.
University of Nairobi
Nairobi, Kenya

Dana Miller

Dr.
King Saud University
Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia

Taylor King

PhD
University of Dar es Salaam
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Abstract. This article investigates the influence of Arabic on Swahili through language contact and borrowing. By examining historical texts and modern usage, the study traces the integration of Arabic vocabulary into Swahili. The research highlights the socio-cultural and religious factors that facilitated this linguistic exchange. The findings provide insights into the dynamics of language contact and the processes of lexical borrowing, contributing to the understanding of Swahili's linguistic evolution.

Keywords: language contact, lexical borrowing, Arabic, Swahili, linguistic exchange

Introduction

Language contact often results in lexical borrowing, where one language adopts words from another. This article explores the influence of Arabic on Swahili, focusing on the historical and contemporary integration of Arabic vocabulary. By examining historical texts and modern usage, the study identifies the socio-cultural and religious factors that facilitated this linguistic exchange. The research provides insights into the dynamics of language contact and the processes of lexical borrowing, contributing to the understanding of Swahili's linguistic evolution and the broader phenomena of language change.

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