

The Development of a Swahili Curriculum: A Vocabulary-Based Approach

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Design Principles

- Vocabulary-Based Curriculum Design
 - High-Frequency Words and Job-related Words
 - Four Strands (Meaning-Focused Input, Meaning-Focused Output, Language Focus, Fluency Development)
 - Story-based meaningful Input
 - Spaced Repetition
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Development Process Outline

- Design Thinking
 - Vocabulary List Development
 - Story Writing (Reading and Listening)
 - Speaking Development Activities
 - Vocabulary and Grammar Activities
 - Spaced Repetition
 - Packaging
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Design Thinking

Thinking Outside the Box and Prototyping



What can we learn from our test scores? eg, part scores from past 5 years
Is there time to include writing?
Should we teach writing?
What does SLA research tell us?
What is the teacher's role?
Is the length of training based on science?

What is the role of poetry?
How much culture should we put in the curr. culim?
How do we teach culture?
How do we incorporate culture in four strands?
Is there a disconnect btw what we are doing in curriculum and what the test is asking?
How do we measure our success?

What technology do we have available?
What's the scope of our projects?
How do we deliver the changes to the team?
How do we communicate?
Do we put L & R together? (this)
Do we...
Do we...
Do we...
What's...?

What are the problems?
What is our goal?
What do we need?
What changes do we need to make?
What are the good things we want to be?
What do students need?
How to teach most effectively?
What doesn't work?

What's the mission of the state dept in terms of language?
Who are our stakeholders?
What do they want?
What resources do we have?
What does our timeline look like?
Why are we doing this?
What do we lack?
What do we want to do?

What are our students' needs, jobs, learning styles?
How/what writing styles affect our students' work?
How does our test affect our learning and our lives?
Who are our students?
Background, skills, job/career aspirations.
Which dialect do we teach?
How do we handle different dialects?
What should be the basis of instruction?
Literacy/literacy/literacy



12 Week Design Thinking

- During this period, participants had an extended opportunity to learn and grasp the concept of the Four Strands (by Paul Nation):
 - *Meaning-Focused Input,
 - *Meaning-Focused Output,
 - *Language Focus,
 - *Fluency Development
 - During this period, participants also had the opportunity to think beyond the box (including rapid prototyping) and work on the final proposals for their respective curriculum development projects.
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Vocabulary list

Putting Together the Language Building Foundation

Swahili High Frequency List

- A High Frequency List of Swahili 850 words was developed based on a corpus collected from the internet following the steps below:
 - * Collect texts in six topic categories relevant to our students.
 - * Keep track of the sources, links, and categories using Master tracking file.
 - * Develop a vocabulary list using AntConc software
 - The process involved the curriculum developer to locate the materials, sort and store the material, codify the material according to agreed file naming protocols, convert the data to text files and conduct corpus analysis.
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Master Text Tracking Table

Collection of Reading Materials by Category, Theme, Genre, Formality, etc.

Id	Title	CPR	F/I	Category	SPK/WRT	Theme	Sub-them	Genre	Posted Da	Captured	Source	Link	Words	Grand
1	Tanzania Doctors Refuse to go to Kenya	Y	F	GC	W	Health		news artic	3/20/2017	4/4/2017	BBC Swahili Service	http://www.bbc.com/sw	522	
2	Rural telecommunication hampered by lack of electricity	Y	F	BEA	W	Energy		news artic	3/20/2017	4/4/2017	Habari Leo	http://www.habarileo.co	915	
3	NEC Refutes Election Rigging Allegations	Y	F	PM	W	Politics	Elections	Feature ar	4/4/2017	4/4/2017	Habari Leo	http://www.habarileo.co	1081	
4	Motorcycle Taxi Drivers urged to observe traffic regulations	Y	F	CS	W	Legal	Security	Editorial	3/29/2017	4/28/2017	Habari Leo	http://www.habarileo.co	424	
5	Roadside Selling of Food in open containers dangerous for Health	Y	I	GC	W	Health	Food Safety	Op-ed	3/1/2017	4/28/2017	Habari Leo	http://www.habarileo.co	1808	
6	Parliamentarians Protest Over Rampant Arrests and Abductions	Y	I	PM	W	Politics	Security	news artic	4/12/2017	4/28/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	967	
7	Animal Husbandry Key to Dairy Farming Industry in the Country	Y	I	BEA	W	Agriculture	Pastoral	news artic	4/28/2017	4/28/2017	Mwanainchi	Link on Word Text Doc	511	
8	Borussia Dortmund Bombing Suspect Arrested	Y	I	PM	W	Security	Terrorism	news artic	4/12/2017	4/28/2017	BBC Swahili Service	http://www.bbc.com/sw	300	
9	Information Minister Threatened by Gun while Defending Press Freedom	Y	I	CS	W	Media	Security	Op-ed	3/23/2017	5/2/2017	Global Publishers	https://globalpublishers	953	
10	Government Should Deliver on its Promises to the Youth	Y	F	CS	W	Economics	Youth	Op-ed	4/27/2017	5/2/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	739	
11	Youth Preparation Needed before Loan Money Goes to Villages	Y	F	BEA	W	Economics	Youth	news artic	5/4/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	741	
12	Freedom of Speech Should Go Hand in Hand with Responsibilities	Y	F	CS	W	Media	Freedom	editorial	5/3/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	442	
13	Fake Qualifications not acceptable, we should not be lenient	Y	F	CS	W	Labor	Auditing	Editorial	5/3/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	604	
14	Parliamentarian's Salaries should Match their Educational Qualifications	Y	I	CS	W	Labour	Auditing	Op-ed	5/3/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	613	
15	Motorcycle Taxis becomes Enemies of Banks and Supermarkets	Y	I	CS	W	Transportation	Security	Feature ar	4/28/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	1122	
16	Country's Economic Growth Rate to Slump Down	Y	F	BEA	W	Economics		news artic	4/28/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	582	
17	Dams for Rain Water Catchment Vital for Agriculture	Y	I	STA	W	Agriculture	Environment	feature articles	4/2/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	Link Word Text Doc	664	
18	Kidnapping Saga Overshadow Prime Minister's Budget Debate	Y	F	PM	W	Government	Security	news articles	3/19/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	1121	
19	Micro Finance Institutions to Boost Women's Economic Empowerment	Y	F	BEA	W	Economics	Finance	feature ar	5/4/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	506	
20	Auditor General's Report should help Improve Next Budget	Y	F	GC	W	Government	Auditing	feature ar	5/4/2017	5/4/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	980	
21	Drinking Water Helps to Reduce Stress and Anger	Y	F	STA	W	Health		feature ar	5/5/2017	5/5/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	684	
22	Eating Avacados Reduces Aging Process	Y	F	STA	W	Health		feature ar	5/5/2017	5/5/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	213	
23	Good Eating Habits will help you to Reduce High Blood Pressure	Y	F	STA	W	Health		feature ar	5/5/2017	5/5/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	632	
24	The Government Should Consider the Fate of Civil Servants Caught in the	Y	F	GC	W	Labor	Auditing	Editorial	5/5/2017	5/5/2017	Mwanainchi	http://www.mwanainchi	474	
25	Leaders Need to have Proper Qualifications	Y	I	GC	W/S	Labor	Auditing	Satire	5/4/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	753	
26	When Artists Assume the Role of Mediators	Y	F	CS	W	Music Artists	Conflict Reso	feature ar	5/4/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	826	
27	The Structure of Education Tanzania	Y	F	CS	W	Education		editorial	5/4/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	2120	
28	Condolences to the Police and Families of Killed Police Officers	Y	F	PM	W	Military	Police Killings	editorial	4/20/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	344	
29	Let us Prepare to Face New Union Challenges	Y	F	PM	W	Politics		Editorial	4/28/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	337	
30	We have Found out Those who Forged Certificates; What is next?	Y	F	GC	W	Labor	Auditing	Feature ar	5/4/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	659	
31	Urban Agriculture Affected by Climate Change	Y	F	STA	W	Agriculture	Climate Chan	Feature ar	2/9/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1130	
32	Reduction of Butterflies & Bees Posing Danger to Food Supply	Y	F	STA	W	Agriculture	Food Supply	Feature ar	1/12/2017	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1116	
33	Trump Requested to Ease his Stand on Climate Debate	Y	F	STA	W	Environment	Climate Chan	Feature ar	11/24/2016	5/5/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	544	
34	Lake Victoria Facing Environmental Danger	Y	F	STA	W	Environment	Pollution	Feature ar	11/3/2016	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	563	
35	Change in Soccer Unavoidable: What About TFF?	Y	F	CS	W	Sports	Administratio	Feature ar	3/23/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	798	
36	Tanga should Regain its Lost Glory in Soccer	Y	F	CS	W	Sports		Feature ar	4/20/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1043	
37	We Need one Magful in Soccer	Y	F	CS	W	Sports		Feature ar	4/28/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1010	
38	We should Raise our Voices about Sports through Serengeti Boys	Y	F	CS	W	Sports		Feature ar	5/4/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	840	
39	Foreign Investors Dominate the Stock Exchange	Y	F	BEA	W	Business & Economics	Investment	Feature Ar	3/2/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	961	
40	Dangers of Investments on the Stock Exchange	Y	F	BEA	W	Business & Economics	Investment	Feature ar	2/23/2017	5/8/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1302	
41	Trading of TSE Shares Dominate Market	Y	F	GC	W	Business & Economics		Feature ar	3/23/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1023	
42	SIDO Project Successful in Raising Rural Entrepreneurship	Y	F	BEA	W	Business & Economics		Feature Ar	3/16/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1451	
43	Employees of Kyela Local Council to be Charged for Embezzlement	Y	F	GC	W	General	Corruption	news repo	5/3/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	964	
44	Killings of Family Shake up Kyela Rural Areas	Y	F	GC	W	General	Killings	news repo	4/28/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	734	
45	Crime Wave Shake up Ijinda Area in Kyela District	Y	F	GC	W	General	Crime	news repo	4/20/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1074	
46	Corn Trading Causes Havoc at Tanzania - Malawi Border	Y	F	BEA	W	Business & Economics	Trading	news repo	4/13/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	788	
47	With Good Advertisement Katavi could be a major Tourist Attraction	Y	F	BEA	W	Business & Economic	Tourism	Feature ar	3/23/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	965	
48	CWT Rejects Secondary School Teachers to Teach in Primary Schools	Y	F	GC	W	General	education	news repo	4/6/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1064	
49	Dodoma Mayor Removed along with some Councillors	Y	F	GC	W	General	Administratio	news repo	4/3/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	296	
50	Special Committee Formed to Oversee Construction of Tobacco Factory	Y	F	STA	W	Agriculture	Industry	news repo	3/2/2017	5/10/2017	RaiaMwema	http://www.raiamwema	1747	

Swahili Frequency List

Example: The first 12 of a 875 Swahili word List

- 01 -- **na** - *and, with, by, is, be, are, have*
- 02 -- **ya** - *of, for, belonging to*
- 03 -- **wa** - *of, for, belonging to*
- 04 -- **kwa** - *to, with, by, for the sake of*
- 06 -- **ni** - *is, are, am*
- 07 -- **za** - *of, for, belonging to*
- 08 -- **katika** - *in, on*
- 09 -- **la** - *of, for, belonging to*
- 10 -- **kuwa** - *being, to be*
- 11 -- **cha** - *of, for, belonging to*
- 12 -- **kwenye** - *at, on, by*

Story-Writing (Reading)

Manufacturing and Molding the Blocks
(Meaning Focused Input)

Key Considerations in Writing Stories

- Ensure stories are **level appropriate** in the choice of vocabulary (High frequency)
 - Ensure stories are **relevant and meaningful** to the students work needs
 - Ensure stories are authentic and **culturally appropriate** in target region
 - Ensure stories are fairly **distributed to** cover the Swahili speaking region
 - Ensure there is **repetition, continuity, connectivity and logical flow** in the stories
 - Ensure the stories have **vocabulary spaced repetition** (Pimsleur's spaced repetition)
 - Ensure the stories have a systematic **thematic spaced repetition**
 - Ensure each story has **a vocabulary list** for new words used
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Story Example

(Lesson 8)

TAFRIJA UBALOZINI

(July 4th Reception at the Embassy)

- *Robert anafanya kazi katika Shirika la Taifa la Habari. Yeye ni mwandishi habari, amefanya kazi kwa muda wa miaka kumi na nane. Robert ana rafiki yake ambaye anaitwa Daudi. Yeye anafanya kazi katika Ubalози wa Marekani mjini Dar es Salaam. Daudi ni mwanahabari pia, anafanya kazi kwenye ofisi ya habari Ubalozini. Leo kuna sherehe ya uhuru wa Marekani. Daudi amemkaribisha Robert kwenye tafrija kubwa ambayo imeandaliwa na ofisi ya Ubalози.*
 - *Kila mwaka Ubalози wa Marekani mjini Dar es Salaam huandaa tafrija ya kusherehekea uhuru wa Marekani tarehe za mwanzo wa mwezi wa saba. Kwenye sherehe hizo wageni wengi hualikwa kutoka serikalini na pia watu binafsi. Wakati wa tafrija, hotuba mbali mbali hutolewa na pia waalikwa hupata huduma ya chakula na vinywaji. Ubalози huandaa tafrija hii pia kutoa nafasi kwa maafisa wa Ubalози kuweza kuzungumza na wadau mbali mbali, wakiwemo maafisa wa serikali na pia wananchi wa kawaida wa jamii ya Watanzania.*
 - *Wakati wa tafrija, Daudi alimtambulisha rafiki yake Robert kwa maafisa kadhaa wa Ubalози akiwemo mkuu wa ofisi ya Diplomasia ya Umma Bwana Jerry pamoja na Naibu Balози Bwana Kevin. Robert alikuwa na mazungumzo na maafisa hao kuhusu masuala mbali mbali ya kisiasa, kiuchumi na kijamii nchini. Robert amefurahi sana kupata nafasi ya kukutana na maafisa hao wa Ubalози wa Marekani na kuzungumza nao. Alipata nafasi ya kujifunza mambo mengi. Kama atapata nafasi nyingine tena ataenda na kijana wake John ambaye ni mwanafunzi.*
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Vocabulary List

Lesson 8

Swahili Word	English Meaning	Comments
akiwemo	including	
alimtambulisha	introduce to, make known to	
amefanya	he/she has done, performed	
amemkaribisha	he/she has invited him or her	
Diplomasia	Diplomacy	Cognate
imeandaliwa	be hosted, arranged	
kadhaa	several	
kijamii	social	
kisiasa	political	
kiuchumi	economic	
kumi na nane	eighteen	
maafisa	officers	
Marekani	USA, America	Also called Amerika

Examples of Listening Activity (Meaning Focused Input)

Greetings between two people



SW_Audio4.MP3

Self Introduction



SW_Audio1.MP3

Listening and Speaking

Meaning Focused Output

Key Components

- Developing dialogues based on the story readings
 - Developing semi-scripted and situation-based listening dialogues
 - Developing speaking tasks related to the reading materials
 - Developing speaking tasks based on student's work needs
 - Developing individual and group presentation tasks for students
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An Example Dialogue (Meaning Focused Input and Output)

(Mazungumzo – Kukaribisha Wageni) (Dialogue – Welcoming Visitors)

- **Wageni:** *Hodi Hodi, Hodi!* **Aisha:** *Karibu, Karibu!*
 - **Aisha:** *Shikamoo* **Wageni:** *Marahaba*
 - **Wageni:** *Mama yupo?* **Aisha:** *Ndiyo, mama yuko jikoni*
 - **Mama Aisha:** *Karibuni wageni* **Wageni:** *Asante sana*
 - **Mama Aisha:** *Habari za nyumbani?* **Wageni:** *Nzuri tu.*
 - **Mama Aisha:** *Habari za safari?* **Wageni:** *Nzuri, lakini kuna foleni njiani!*
 - **Mama Aisha:** *Karibuni vinywaji* **Wageni:** *Asante sana!*
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An Example Speaking Activity (Meaning Focused Output)

What can you say about yourself?

- Based on the model presentation in the lesson, speak about an event taking place at your house or home today, using the vocabulary you have been exposed to. Use real facts or imaginary events or situations in your presentation.

Meet and greet your classmates

- Think about what you can talk about when you meet someone for the first time. Prepare to talk to him or her in Swahili based on what you have learned so far and ask your teacher if you need help. Go around and talk to your classmates one by one as if you are meeting them for the first time.

Simple interaction at the embassy

- Pretend you are meeting your LES colleague at the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for the first time. Interact in Swahili. Your instructor will play the role of your colleague.
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An Example Speaking Activity (Meaning Focused Output)

What can you say about your education?

- Talk to your classmate about your schooling history, from lowest grades to the highest education level attained. Talk about the challenges and pitfalls you went through your educational journey and how you managed to overcome those challenges. Take turns with your partner.

Prepare a student visa interview

- You are at a visa window interviewing an applicant who is applying for a student visa to go for college studies in the US. With your classmates, brainstorm how you might construct your interview questions for the visa applicant.

Perform a role play at a visa window

- Perform a visa interview role play. Your instructor will play the role of the applicant. Take turns and until everyone has a chance to perform the interview. Your instructor will play the role of a different applicant each time.
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Vocabulary and Grammar

Language Focus

Key Components

- Developing various vocabulary identification and recognition activities (cognates, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives et.)
 - Developing comprehension questions based on the readings and stories
 - Developing fill-in the blanks vocabulary exercises (based on the readings)
 - Outlining grammar aspects that are taught in context based on the readings
 - Providing basic language grammar points, charts and principles; ie. *use of tenses (neg/post), possessives, demonstratives, imperatives, interrogatives and noun classifications*
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Example Vocabulary and Grammar Activity

Jaza nafasi zilizo wazi (*Fill in the blanks*)

Jana Ijumaa Owino -----baba yake mzazi Mzee Obura katika -----wa

Homa Bay. Leo ni -----ya soko. Wafanyabiashara wengi wamefika -----

samaki wabichi. Familia ya Mzee Miraji ina ----- sita; mke na ----- wanne. Kwa

kawaida -----ya samaki ina faida. Owino alimwambia baba yake -----

Hassan ni rafiki ----- na -----wote mjini Kisumu.

Spaced Repetition

Ensuring Fluency, Efficacy and Reinforcement

Checking the Material for Space Repetition

- The developer and the SLS curriculum unit had weekly meetings to discuss project progress
 - The developer and the SLS curriculum unit went through the material day by day to check on vocabulary
 - Pimsleur's Spaced Repetition model was used (5 sec - 25 sec - 2 mins - 10 mins - 1 hr - 5 hrs - 1 day - 5 days – 25 days - 4 months - 2 years)
 - The developer and the SLS curriculum unit went through the material day by day thematic spaced repetition
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Putting it all together

Assembling and Putting **Together** the Various Components

Writing the Lesson and Unit Plans: Objectives, Functions and Sequencing

- At this stage the developer worked on writing lesson plans for each day
 - Each lesson plan showed the objectives, functions and sequencing
 - Each lesson embraced the integrated learning approach based on the four strands (MFI, MFO, LF, FD)
 - The developer started packaging the various segments into the units of 10 lessons each (2 weeks).
 - The developer and the SLS curriculum unit had a final check on the packaged units before proceeding to the next. Presently, the developer is working on Unit 3 (week 5&6)
 - The developer had the opportunity to test (pilot) some of the ready material on a new student who started training in March, 2018
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Thank You

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