Typesetting Luyia Together
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Overleaf is an online LaTeX (pronounced "lay-tech") editor used to collaboratively author scientific papers and monographs. LaTeX is a typesetting language used to create any figure, equation, graph, or text style imaginable. The ASH Scholars research team Documenting Luyia Together works with the open-access publisher Language Science Press, which requires submitted works to be coded in LaTeX. The publisher offers authors templates in Overleaf for producing their monographs and papers, allowing the publisher to spend less time typesetting books and reducing publication costs. It does, however, place a greater burden on authors to prepare their manuscripts using this technical typesetting language, and my work as a Computer Engineering major on the Documenting Luyia Together team has largely been to assist the team with coding its publications in LaTeX using the Overleaf environment.

I spent the past year converting monographs typed in Microsoft Word documents into LaTeX files using the Overleaf environment. I did not know LaTeX prior to this project, so I learned this new language; compared to C, it was quite easy. LaTeX is particularly useful due to its granularity. For example, when building a table of words and glosses, every aspect of the table (line thickness, spacing, font, location within the page, highlight, etc.) is adjustable and customizable; the same cannot be said of most regular word processors.

The importance of typesetting these works written by Dr. Marlo and our collaborators lies in the fact that the Luyia cluster of languages is understudied, and by extension, does not have very much related literature available. The linguistic works being typeset now will be published and allow researchers and Luyia community members around the world to study and better understand the Luyia language cluster.