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## **Documenting Luyia Together: Tone in Kabarasi**

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The ASH Scholars project *Documenting Luyia Together* was started in 2016 for the purpose of describing understudied languages of the Luyia cluster in western Kenya and eastern Uganda. Kabarasi is an understudied member of Kenyan Luyia, spoken by a community of approximately 250,000 members (2009 Kenya Census). This presentation discusses the research of Elizabeth Kujath and Miya Russell on Kabarasi during the Fall 2020 semester, building on previous research done by Kujath in 2018, by Russell in 2020, and by former MU postdoctoral fellow Kristopher Ebarb in 2016.

The focus of this presentation is the analysis of research materials collected on Kabarasi in 2019 as part of the *Luyia-Soga Talking Wordlists* subproject of Documenting Luyia Together. This subproject has the goal of collecting comparative 600+-item wordlists with accompanying audio recordings for the 30+ members of the Luyia and Soga language clusters and their neighboring Bantu languages. This work will allow for a new classification and investigation into the linguistic history of the languages of this region, while also generating new linguistic documentation and description of several understudied languages.

We created an archive of audio files for each of the words in the wordlist, processing the original interview recordings using Audacity. We then transcribed each of the words in the list using the International Phonetic Alphabet, which allowed for a preliminary study of the Kabarasi sound system, along with the identification of the consonants and vowels of the language. Subsequent research has emphasized the tonal patterns of nouns and verbs in the language, which we intend to continue studying in future research as we extend the dataset to include additional vocabulary and phrases.