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Documenting Luyia Together: the Lamogi Talking Wordlist

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This presentation is about my research in Fall 2020 as part of the *Luyia-Soga Talking Wordlists* project of the *Documenting Luyia Together* ASH Scholars research team. The overall goals of this project are to document the many linguistic varieties of the Luyia and Soga language clusters in western Kenya and eastern Uganda and to produce a new classification of the languages in the region. For each individual language, we want to study the sound system and the structure of words.

My work involves an understudied language spoken in eastern Uganda called Lamogi. As far as we know, there are only three prior studies of Lamogi, carry out by Prof. Larry Hyman at UC-Berkeley (Hyman 2014, 2017, Hyman & Merrill 2016). My research is focused on transcribing and analyzing over 600 sound files of Lamogi words collected by fellow MU student Sarah Pribe in Uganda in 2019. I am going word-by-word in the list and transcribing the pronunciations of each word using the International Phonetic Alphabet. On the basis of these transcriptions, I am also writing a report about the sound system of Lamogi. In this report, I identify and exemplify each of the consonants and vowels in Lamogi, and I also study the structure of nouns, identifying the prefixes that signal singular, plural, and gender. Later, I will integrate the Lamogi wordlist into a larger database that will allow for a new classification of the languages in the region based on a comparison of their vocabulary and sounds.

References

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