

## **A Study of Tiriki Noun Tone**

### **Abstract:**

This presentation covers the topics, methods, and results of Tiriki noun tone research as has been undertaken through the Cherg Summer Scholars research program at the University of Missouri Honors College. Prior to this summer, data on Tiriki noun tone was collected through efforts of ASH Documenting Luyia Together. The project that is ongoing this summer seeks to expand the current data set of to include a robust collection of Tiriki phrasal data. A phrasal data questionnaire has been recently formed and will be used to collect a diverse set of noun tone data that will answer the important question of exactly what grammatical interactions exist that modify the underlying forms and realizations of tone on Tiriki nouns. An overarching goal of this project is to analyze the noun tone data collected and to publish the results of this analysis in a linguistic paper that is currently being written on Tiriki noun tone. Other goals include the historical analysis of Tiriki noun tone with noun tone systems of related Luyia languages. Some potential methods of comparison that have not been used much in linguistic analysis include dimensionality reduction and clustering methods. New progress has been made in this direction during this summer. Finally, the visualization and analysis of Tiriki noun tone with other linguistic subsystems as a grammatical interaction network is starting to be explored. Other types of linguistics networks are demonstrated in relevant literature, however none of this nature could be found. In the next four weeks, significant amounts of data will be collected and analyzed through fieldwork in Western Kenya, and this project will continue through the next academic year.