



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP56_DIP_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2020/2021

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours

COURSE TITLE

Swahili and Bantu Linguistics and Dialectology

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

African Languages and Linguistics

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English and Swahili

COURSE SUMMARY

A first part of the course (18 teaching hours) will explore and teach the use of one of the most typical features of Bantu languages, i.e., the verbal extensions, and in particular their morphology, semantics, and combinations. The following Swahili verbal extensions will be investigated:

-AN- (reciprocal); -I- (applicative); -U- (conversive); -W- (passive); -K- (stative); -SHA- and -ZA- (causative); -AM- (static); -AT- (contactive); -A- (durative); and -P- (inceptive).

A second part of the course (18 teaching hours) will cover the insular Swahili varieties of Tanzania: first of all, Kiunguja (the variety of the main island of the Zanzibar archipelago, Unguja), and then the dialects of the surrounding islands of Makunduchi (Kikae) and Tumbatu (Kitumbatu), as well as the geographically more apart variety of the Pemba island (Kipemba). Kiunguja in particular has been one of the varieties in which Classical Swahili literature was written, and its knowledge is a prerequisite for any serious investigation of the genesis of the Swahili language and the history of the Swahili literature. This part of the course will also make use of texts from the oral tradition.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the students will have a thorough knowledge of Swahili verbal morphology and syntax.

They will also know about different Swahili varieties, both modern and past, and will have accessed material in the classical Swahili poetry as well as from oral sources.

The attendants will further know how to analyze and translate linguistic material from different oral traditions.

The attendants will have further learned to discuss topics in African languages and linguistics in an international language.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

LAB ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

OTHER ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

One or more conferences on Swahili and/or Bantu linguistics or literature addressed to students and colleagues in African, Arab and Islamic studies, and in anthropology.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE DESCRIPTION

The ideal candidate will have:

- a. a native or native-like knowledge of Swahili, both written and oral;
- b. a long and documented experience in teaching Swahili as a foreign language;
- c. sound bases in Bantu linguistics with a focus on Swahili, and a good experience in teaching Swahili linguistics;
- d. fieldwork experience in Swahili dialect studies and in data collection, if possible with particular reference to the dialects and oral literature of the Zanzibar archipelago and Pemba;
- e. an international standing in Swahili language and literature, proven by a a sizable number of international scientific publications.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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