

# **LEXICAL SEMANTIC VARIATIONS IN LUTIRICHI HYPONYMS**

**Sylvia Khavaya Shirosio**

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of  
Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Degree of Masinde Muliro University of  
Science and Technology**

**June, 2025**

## DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work prepared with no other than the indicated sources and support and has not been presented elsewhere for a degree or any other award.

Signature .....Date.....

Sylvia Khavaya Shirosio

LAL/G/01- 70001/2022

## CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certify that they have read and hereby recommend for acceptance of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology a thesis entitled, '**Lexical Semantic Variations in Lutirichi Hyponyms**'.

Signature.....Date.....

**Dr. James Matseshe**

Department of Language and Literature Education

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Signature .....Date.....

**Dr. Benard Mudogo**

Department of language and Literature Education

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my late parents Jamin Shirosio and Esinas Kajala, I treasure you. Let your treasured souls continue to rest in eternal peace. You loved me so much and believed in me. The love for education and sacrifices that you always made to give me a smooth path will always remain in my heart although you all left. I am your living legacy.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I do appreciate the unmerited favour of the Almighty God over my life. I can attest to His faithfulness to me since the start of this journey to this far.

I heartily want to thank my supervisors: Dr. James Matseshe and Dr. Benard Mudogo. Your immense support has always encouraged me to endeavor my utmost, I am deeply indebted to you. Sincerely my gratitude also goes to my course lecturers: Dr. Atichi, Mr. Oduma, Mr. Omondi, Dr. Barasa, Dr. Mandillah, Dr. Makuto and to all other members of the Language and Literature Education fraternity whose names I could not capture. May God favour you always.

Special acknowledgement goes to my husband Nathan Muchela; you are selfless and always willing to support me. Your prayers and sacrifices have made me strong. May God reward you for your kindness. Many thanks to my brothers: Evans, Solomon, Aggrey, Silas and Ernest. What can I say? You are my strength; I love you all. Your humility has always humbled me. May the Almighty God reward you with long life.

Particular recognition goes to my lovely babies; Sifa, Natalie, Favour, and Nova. You are the reason I wake up before dawn and burn the midnight oil. Mum loves you. Many thanks also to my sisters: Nelly, Julia and Dorice. I enjoy your love and warmth. May God bless you so much.

Special appreciation goes to my classmates, Susan, Lucy, Celestine, Rodgers, Lillian, Joel and Harrison. You must have backed me up with resources, I enjoyed your company, kindly accept my gratitude and let's keep the fire burning. Your encouragement and unwavering support have always given me the extra strength to move on.

## ABSTRACT

Studies have shown that hyponymy is evident in all languages and the senses of words in hyponymic relationships do vary from one language to another. However, failure to apply the correct meanings might hinder communicability among language users in given contexts. This study investigated the lexical semantic variations of hyponyms in Lutirichi, a Luhya language which is spoken in the Western part of Kenya. The aim was to investigate how some meanings in Lutirichi hyponyms are sometimes altered in their context of use to create occasion-specific senses based on interaction among concepts, pragmatic principles and contextual information. Further, the present study also sought to investigate why some hyponyms in Lutirichi have been borrowed from Kiswahili and English resulting to meaning variations in the usage of such words among the users due to varied occasion specific senses. The study objectives were to; categorize the hierarchical relationships in Lutirichi hyponyms, examine contextual meaning variations in the Lutirichi hyponyms and account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. The study applied a descriptive design. The respondents were selected from Lutirichi native speakers found in Hamisi Sub-County, through purposive sampling. The data collected was through word lists and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The units of analysis were hyponyms in Lutirichi in the form of words. Data collected was analyzed thematically and presented in descriptive form. The data was analyzed within the tenets and the principles of the Usage-Based Approach Theory (UBAT) (Bybee & Beckener,2010) which argues that grammar is a derivative of language, not a prerequisite and the Semantic Field Theory (Boran,2018) which postulates that, the vocabulary of a language is organized into fields within which words interrelate and define each other in various ways. For instance, a sense of a word can only be fully resolved in terms of contrasts in which it stands with other words in the field. The findings of the present study established that the Lutirichi hyponyms are categorized in hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers just like in other languages, although there is significant difference when it comes to the hierarchical relationships and multiples of layers. It was also established that Lutirichi has borrowed and coined some hyponyms from English and Kiswahili in order to provide for inadequate hyponyms in the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers which is a major characteristic of hyponymy. Since some hyponyms in Lutirichi are words borrowed from other languages such as Swahili and English, it was discovered that there are variations in the usage of such words. A part from the borrowed words it was also observed that there was meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. The findings of the present study also established that the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms is lost during the usage. The study was significant since it contributes to existing scholarly works in lexical semantics by highlighting the resultant meaning variations that manifest in the hyponyms of a language derived from the usage of a word and not the traditional semantic meaning.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Chapter Introduction .....	1
1.2 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2.1 Lutirichi Language.....	4
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	6
1.4 Research Objectives.....	6
1.5 Research Questions.....	7
1.6 Justification.....	7
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the study .....	8
1.8 Significance of the Study.....	9
1.9 Chapter Summary .....	10
<b>CHAPTER TWO .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	11
2.2 Hyponymy and hierarchical relations .....	11
2.3 Lexical Semantic Variations in hyponyms .....	17
2.3.1 Lexical Semantic variation due to borrowing.....	21
2.4 Lexical Semantic variation due to age.....	28
2.5 Hyponymy and Entailment .....	29
2.6 Theoretical Framework.....	31
2.6.1 The Usage-Based Theory.....	31
2.6.2 The Semantic Field Theory.....	33

2.7 Chapter Summary .....	36
<b>CHAPTER THREE .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>37</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	37
3.2 Research Design.....	37
3.3 Area of Study .....	37
3.4 Study Population.....	38
3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure .....	39
3.6 Data Collection Methods and Elicitation Procedure.....	40
3.7 Data Collection .....	42
3.7.1 Audio Recording.....	42
3.7.2 Focus Groups Discussion.....	42
3.7.3 Word Lists .....	43
3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation.....	43
3.9 Ethical Consideration.....	45
3.10 Chapter Summary .....	46
<b>CHAPTER FOUR.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>47</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	47
4.1.1 Categories of hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms.....	47
4.2 Lexical Semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms.....	57
4.3 Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing.....	60
4.4 The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms .....	63
4.4.1 Hyponyms for nouns:.....	64
4.4.2 Hyponyms for adjectives .....	65
4.4.3 Hyponyms for verbs.....	66
4.4.4 Hyponyms for nouns.....	66
4.4.5 Hyponyms for adjectives .....	68
4.4.6 Hyponym for verbs .....	68
4.4.7 The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms due to age .....	69
4.5 Chapter Summary .....	70

<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>71</b>
5.0 Introduction.....	71
5.1 Summary of Findings.....	71
5.2 Conclusion .....	73
5.3 Recommendations.....	74
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>84</b>
Appendix I: Lutirichi Hyponyms.....	84
Appendix II: Focus Group Discussion.....	91
Appendix III : Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing and coining.....	93
Appendix IV: Lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms .....	94
Appendix V: Raw data from respondents .....	96
APPENDIX VI :APPROVAL LETTER .....	97
APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH LICENSE.....	98
APPENDIX VIII: MAP OF THE STUDY AREA .....	99

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1 Lutirichi hyponyms for adjectives .....	49
Table 4.2 Lutirichi hyponyms for nouns.....	51
Table 4.3 Lutirichi hyponyms for verbs .....	55
Table 4.4 Lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms .....	58
Table 4.5 Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing.....	60

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1 The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms due to age .....	70
--	----

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>EFL</b>	–	English as a Foreign Language
<b>ESL</b>	–	English as a Second Language
<b>FGD</b>	–	Focus Group Discussions
<b>L1</b>	–	First Language
<b>L2</b>	–	Second Language
<b>MTE</b>	–	Mother Tongue Education
<b>NACOSTI</b>	-	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>NG-CDF</b>	-	National Government Constituencies Development Fund
<b>UBAT</b>	–	Usage based approach theory
<b>SFT</b>	–	Semantic Field Theory
<b>SL</b>	–	Source Language

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

- Dialect** Lutirichi which is a variety of Luhya language.
- Entailment** The loss of the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms due to contextual semantic variations in the hyponyms.
- Hypernym** Lutirichi hypernyms in form of verbs, nouns and adjectives
- Hyponymy** Lutirichi hyponyms in form of verbs, nouns and adjectives.
- Semantic variation** change in meaning of Lutirichi hyponyms.
- Semantics** meaning of Lutirichi hyponyms.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Chapter Introduction**

This chapter consists of various subsections in the following order; background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, research assumptions, justification and significance of the study and scope of the study. The chapter also provides a background to Lutirichi. The present study focused on investigating semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms.

#### **1.2 Background to the Study**

Septina (2022) defines hyponymy as the semantic category which refers to the lexical relations that occur between words. She posits that the role of hyponymy is crucial in language processing and failure to capture the correct meaning might lead to communication breakdown. This study examined how Lutirichi hyponyms in form of verbs, nouns and adjective vary semantically from one context to another. It focused on investigating lexical semantic variations of hyponyms in Lutirichi which is one of the Luhya groups of languages spoken in the Western part of Kenya. The aim was to; categorize the hierarchical relationships in Lutirichi hyponyms, examine contextual meaning variations in the Lutirichi hyponyms and described how the usage based theory influence entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. The sense of a word can only be fully determined in terms of disparity in which it stands with other words in the field. From a dialectical perspective, this means that any alteration in the meaning of a word affects the meaning of other words to which it is related. This is key in understanding meaning in a communication context. Crystal (1992) points out the significance of context and points out that "...it is always necessary to consider context before assigning a lexical item to a field-for example, hospital relates to both

the semantic field of health (as in ‘I was in hospital last week’) and that of buildings (as in ‘The hospital needs a new roof)’ (p. 347). Scholars observe that a lexeme or a phrase whose sense is involved within another lexeme, and its hypernym or hyponym is known as superordinate or subordinate (Bussmann, 1996; Hearst,1992; Ecco,1986; Goatly, 2012; Krörger, 2018). In the same light, Cruse (2001) asserts that hyponymy is the symmetrical relation of sense between for instance, dog and animal and between for daffodil and flower. Cruse posits that hyponymy is usually explained in terms of inclusion. On the other hand, Richard (2019) argues that in linguistics and lexicography, hyponym is a term used to designate a particular member of a broader class. For instance, Richard posits that daisy and rose are hyponyms of flower. He asserts that they are also called a subtype or a subordinate term. According to Richard, the semantic relationship between each of the more specific words (such as daisy and rose) and the broader term (flower) is called hyponyms or inclusion.

Lutirichi is a language with various hyponyms lexical items just as other languages. As observed in the previous studies by Cruse (2001) and Richards (2019) that hyponyms are explained in terms of inclusion, the present study was set to investigate the characteristics in Lutirichi hyponyms that make them unique from other hyponyms in other languages. There are various studies that have been carried out in other languages on hyponymy but Lutirichi has been understudied, therefore this study was out to fill this gap.

Several studies have been conducted on hyponymy relations, focusing on different aspects. For instance, Akeng’o (2015) analyzed Lunyore nouns semantically. She identified the various noun classes of the Lunyore and examined the efficacy of CA in the analysis of Lunyore nouns. The present study however, differed from

Akeng'o's in the sense that it sought to investigate the lexical semantic variations in Lurichi hyponyms in form of nouns, verbs and adjectives.

Another related study by Gitonga (2018) examined the nexus between hypernym and hyponym in Gikuyu. She investigated the influence of gender on hyponym used in Gikuyu church sermons. However, Gitonga's study did not delve into the lexical semantic variations of hyponyms which the current study investigated. This left out a gap which the present study intended to fill. Therefore, the present study looked at hyponymous lexical items in Lurichi. The study sought to investigate the semantic variations in Lurichi hyponyms and to categorize the hierarchical relationships of Lurichi hyponyms to understand the unique characteristics of hierarchical relationships observed in Lurichi language in form of verbs, nouns and adjectives.

Munyaya (2017) investigated sense relations in Kigiryama. She sought to identify the lexical pragmatic processes affecting the interpretation of sense relations in Kigiryama. Her study assessed the pragmalinguistic versus the socio-pragmatic dimensions of locutions as meaning bearing elements, and how sense relations may move between the purely linguistic and the socio-cultural underpinnings of any language. However, Munyaya's study did not investigate the lexical semantic variations of hyponyms which the current study investigated. This therefore left a gap which the present study is out to fill.

Finnegan (2008) argues that in spite of the fact that hyponyms can be found in dialects, ideas or words in hyponym relationship shift from one language to the next language. This is the reason to why the present study was set to investigate how Lurichi hyponyms characteristics are unique. Hyponymy is not restricted to nouns. The verb to see, for example, has several hyponyms –glimpse, stare, gaze, ogle and

so on. The present study was not limited to nouns but also looked at verbs and adjectives in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Frank & Kathryn (1994) posit that hyponymy is sometimes referred to as inclusion. The superordinate is the included word and the hyponym is the including one. This is because when people utter statements, they often convey entailment whether intentionally or unintentionally because the basis of semantic description is the notion of entailment. Nouwen (2011: 2) explains that entailment can be used to establish whether two sentences are semantically independent, semantically related, or semantically identical. Technically, Nouwen portrays entailment as sentence S entails sentence S' if and only if S is true too. For instance, he asserts that a sentence, Mary owns a pink sweater entails Mary owns a sweater because if Mary has a pink sweater, surely, she has a sweater. Due to meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms, the entailment aspect as one of the characteristics of hyponyms may end up being lost during usage. This was why the present study was also set to describe how the usage based theory influence the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms.

### **1.2.1 Lutirichi Language**

According to Anjiji (2008) Lutirichi is one of the nineteen varieties of the Luhya macro language. Marlo (2011) also posits that Luhya language is made of a minimum of nineteen languages. The members include Lunyala (East and West), Lutura, Loloogoli, Lutirichi, Lubukusu, Lukhayo, Lumarachi, Lusamia, Lunyore, Lwisukha, Lwitakho, Luwanga, Lumarama, Lutsotso, Maasaba, Lukisa, Lukabaras, Lusonga and Lutachoni. Mudogo (2017) identifies Lusonga as one of the Luhyia languages. Available studies differ on the exact number of languages that comprise the Luhya language (Kebeya1997). Lutirichi is also referred to as a language, this is according to Lewis (2021) who reclassified Luhya as a macro language and the

various varieties promoted to the status of languages, hence, the members that belong to this family were no longer regarded as dialects but also languages.

The regrouping was noted to be due to the fact that there is no standard Luhya language but rather each Luhya native speaks one of its varieties. According to Marlo (2009), these languages are divided into four primary groups: northern dialects, central dialects, eastern dialects, and southern dialects. The Luhya languages share some phonological, semantic, and syntactic features but these features also have variances that make the dialects distinct (Marlo, 2009). However, variances give each language a linguistically unique personality, demanding investigation into specific languages. This was the reason why the present study was out to investigate meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Sangale (2005) argues that Tiriki was a name given by the Terik to people who settled in the midst of them because these people did not pierce the ears. The Terik called them 'Tiriki Vakwe'. The ancestors of these Tiriki Vakwe people according to (Sangale,2005) were from various Abaluhya tribes, they include the following sub clans; Bhikhava, Balukhoba, Bahaliero, Bajisinde, Baumbo, Bashistungu, Bamabi,Bamiluha,Balukhombe, Badura, Bamayuda, Bamuli, Basamia, Barimbuli, Baguga, Basaniaga, Banyonji, Bamoiya and Basuba. The Tiriki Vakwe, that is the various sub clans as listed above, agreed to abandon their respective individual customs and adopted that of the host tribe the Terik. The chief among the customs adopted was the circumcision ceremony, which is known as ITUMII (to mean a secret), a rite of passage into manhood for the young Tiriki boys. Migration of the above listed clans that form the native speakers of Lutirichi was thought be one of the reasons why we have meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms, a gap that this study was out to fill. The Terik people border Lulogooli speaking people of western

Kenya in Vihiga County and like all the other Bantu languages, Lutirichi is an agglutinating language.

Lutirichi is spoken by Avatirichi. The area inhabited by Avatirichi speakers include: Shiru ward, Shamokhokho ward, Muhudu ward, part of Banja ward, Jepkoyai and part of Gisambai ward. The present study will collect data from two wards that is, Banja and Shamakhokho wards for convenience purposes.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Knowing the correct sense of each word in every context enables one to communicate effectively, which contributes to harmony and understanding in the community. However, the meanings of words in a given language can be frequently altered in their context of use so that the proposition expressed is different from the lexically encoded meaning. The present study therefore investigated lexical semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. Some hyponyms in Lutirichi may have been borrowed from Swahili and English, there are meaning variations in the usage of such words among the users due to varied occasion specific senses. Therefore, these semantic variations hinder communicability among different generations of Lutirichi speakers. The present study filled the gap on semantic variations of hyponyms on which there was scanty empirical evidence.

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

- i. To categorize the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi Hyponyms.
- ii. To examine contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi Hyponyms.
- iii. To account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms.

## **1.5 Research Questions**

- i. What are the various categories of hierarchical relationships in Lutirichi hyponyms?
- ii. To what extent do contextual meaning variations occur in Lutirichi hyponyms?
- iii. How do contextual semantic variations influence the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms?

## **1.6 Justification**

This study was grounded within the field of semantics analysis, with a particular focus on hyponyms/hyponymy and its usage in Lutirichi. In these fields, hyponymy was recognized as a semantic category which refers to the lexical relations that occur between words. Hyponymy is a lexeme or a phrase whose sense is involved within another lexeme, and its hypernym or hyponym is known as superordinate.

As Finnegan (2008) puts it, hyponyms can be found in dialects, ideas or words in hyponym relationship shift from one language to the next, it is crystal clear that there are so many previous studies on hyponyms in both African and European languages that have significantly advanced our understanding on hyponymy. IASC (2021) & Hoshan (2020) conducted studies on semantic analysis of hyponymy in short story 'My Hero in You' ( How kids can fight covid-19) and Mansfield's The Little Girl respectively. The two studies aimed at highlighting and discovering the most and least dominant category in the two stories. They were interested in the vocabulary, thus the hyponyms in the books whereas, the present study is not only interested in the hyponyms but also how the hyponyms are used in different contexts. Gitonga (2018) Studied the influence of gender on hyponyms in Gikuyu just but to mention a few studies. It is evident that there is a significant gap in our understanding on the

study of hyponyms in African languages more so the Bantu languages such as Lutirichi. This study aimed to fill that gap by focusing on the semantic variations, category and description of the hierarchical relationships and accounting for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms that have not been adequately addressed in the existing literature, particularly the lexical semantic variation of Lutirichi hyponyms. In addition, the present study will investigate how borrowing and coining of hyponyms from other languages particularly English and Kiswahili enrich the Lutirichi hyponyms vocabulary as well as contribute to the meaning variation that this study is investigating.

By situating this study within the broader frameworks of semantic analysis, the research not only adds to the body of knowledge on Bantu languages but also provides a unique contribution by exploring under-researched hyponymy. In doing so, it enhances our understanding of the diversity and complexity of hyponyms across all languages particularly the Bantu language family, demonstrating how Lutirichi may differ from or align with patterns observed in better-known Bantu languages.

### **1.7 Scope and Limitation of the study**

The scope of the present study was limited to the lexical level of analyzing Lutirichi hyponyms basing on their variations in meaning. Jeffries (2006), reports that singular feelings of a lexeme have various arrangements of relationship in other words known as the relationship of sense. This study limited itself to sense relation. In this sense relation, the sense of one form is embedded in the meaning of another. It also focused on hierarchical relationships based on the definition of words thus the Lutirichi hyponyms. The other main sense relation as identified by Aunga (2011), are synonymy, antonymy, metonymy, meronymy and polysemy. The study did not

attempt to investigate other outcomes such as language shift, language mixing, language loss, language creation and language vitality due to possible challenges in time constraints and data handling problems (Matseshe, 2020). However, this study narrowed down to hyponyms in Lutirichi Language and not these other senses. The study site was the region of Luhya land specifically inhabited by the Tiriki people who speak Lutirichi.

### **1.8 Significance of the Study**

Hyponyms are very common across all languages. The sense relation of hyponymy is very beneficial in the process of language input and output, such as in reading comprehension, writing, translation and cross-cultural communication. As it was already stated by Cruise (2001) that hyponymy is the symmetrical relation of sense between for instance, dog and animal and between for daffodil and flower. Hyponymy is usually explained in terms of inclusion, Cruse (2001)

Hyponym is a technique that can be used in teaching and learning process especially in teaching vocabulary. The teachers of languages can find this technique easy to be applied in the classroom for teaching vocabulary. For example, when the teacher teaches a new vocabulary to students, the teacher begins it by introducing the words that has relation to other words, connecting the words, and giving some other examples. Thornbury (2007:127) states, “Hyponym is another -nym word that is used when talking about the way word meanings are related.” By this he means that hyponym word is the way how we can relate a general idea to a specific idea. Thornbury futher argues that hyponym helps the students change their thinking systematically from generalities to specifics. He asserts that it can be used to break down broad categories into main topic and subtopic.

The present study will enlighten other linguistic researchers on how borrowing of hyponyms from other languages like English and Kiswahili has enriched Lutirichi language therefore aiding in the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers, a characteristic that is not found in Lutirichi hyponyms.

The present study adds to the existing knowledge on hyponyms in local languages, like Lutirichi. Its purpose is to aid linguistic researchers in future. The present study also highlights and advances knowledge on hyponyms in local FM stations like Vuka FM, Mulembe FM, and Vihiga FM.

In addition, the findings of this study are profitable to ardent academicians and scholars on language contact resultants in Kenyan natives languages. This donates to the knowledge on the influence of lexical borrowing on speakers in a multilingual setting. As such this adds to the availability of existing studies on minority native languages with scanty literature like Lutirichi. The findings will also enable stake holders and policy makers to appreciate the coexistence of Kenyan local languages.

Similar studies have been done in some African languages and European languages (Mamah,2020;Gitonga,2018;Iasc,2021and Azinuddin,2021). However, there is need for more empirical studies that add to the knowledge on variations in local languages such as in Lutirichi.

### **1.9 Chapter Summary**

This chapter looked at the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study and the significance of the study. The next chapter presents the theoretical framework and literature review.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter is intended to review previous studies that relate to the main area of study; the lexical semantic variations of hyponyms in Lutirichi. It established the point of divergence for the study in an effort towards filling the existing gaps in empirical literature. This started with reviewing literature on hyponymous lexical items, variations, entailment and sense relations, hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers, borrowing of hyponyms in Lutirichi. All these studies are deemed beneficial and significant in investigating the lexical semantic variations in hyponyms in Lutirichi. The chapter also discusses the theories the study applied in the research; The usage-based approach theory and The Semantic Field theory. The theories guided the researcher on how the lexical semantic variations occur in Lutirichi hyponyms.

#### **2.2 Hyponymy and hierarchical relations**

The vocabulary of a language does not consist of independent and unrelated items as stated by Baron (2018). For instance, he asserts that hyponymy is a fundamental concept in linguistics and semantics, with broad implications in various fields. Baron further argues that by examining the hierarchical relationships between words, hyponymy enables a better understanding of language structure, cognitive processes, and the organization of knowledge. He posits that it is a valuable tool for analyzing and representing the complexities of language and human cognition. Boran further explains that hierarchy on the other hand in lexicology, refers to the organization and classification of words within a language. He postulates that hierarchy involves the arrangement of words according to their relationships, meaning, and usage, thereby

creating a structured system for understanding and studying vocabulary. This hierarchical structure allows lexicologists to analyze and categorize words based on their positions and connections within the language, providing valuable insights into how words are related and how they function within the lexical system as stated by Taylor (1989). For this reason, the objective one of the present study aimed to categorize and describe the hierarchical relationships in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Vocabulary items such as hyponyms are interrelated and some hyponyms are so closely related that they can form a field of sense. However, the same semantic fields in two different languages may differ in terms of the items which are covered by the semantic fields, and this may result in difficulties in teaching translation and also in teaching vocabulary.

Therefore, if language learners are not aware of the problems and difficulties among culture, they may make language errors when using hyponyms in their sentences due to the semantic field differences between their own culture and the target language culture. Therefore the present study found it vital to investigate the semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms due to the complexities found in the Language's hyponyms.

Bussmann (1996) and Hearst (1992), postulates that Hyponymy is a semantic category which refers to the lexical relations that occur between words. It is a lexeme or phrase whose sense is involved within another lexeme, and its hypernym or hyponym is known as superordinate / subordinate respectively. The study also focused on sense relations in hyponyms in Lutirichi. Other studies on the same include, semantic analysis of hyponymy in short story 'My Hero in you' (How kids can fight covid-19) (IASC, 2021). According to IASC (2021), the study of the words

that make up the vocabulary of a language, the set of lexical units of a language, has to do with two objects: words on the one hand and meanings on the other. These two objects are complex enough that you must define them yourself beforehand before you start defining lexicology. But those two objects must be examined separately and on their meaning.

Several studies have been done on hyponymy and hierarchical relations in a number of languages focusing on different aspects. For instance, Hoshan (2020) conducted a study on how hyponyms can be used to enhance and empower instructors and learners of English to learn and use new sets of vocabulary words, which would add more understanding to the language of literary texts. Hoshan's study differs from the present study because it dealt with particular English hyponyms from a short story, while the present sought to categorize the hierarchical categories of hyponyms in Lutirichi language.

Another related study by Gitonga (2018) examined the nexus between hypernym and hyponym in Gikuyu. It investigated the influence of gender on hyponym used in Gikuyu church sermons. However, Gitonga's study did not delve into the hierarchical relationships of hyponymy based on the definition of words which the current study intended to examine. This left out a gap which the present study is intended to fill. Therefore, the present study looked at hyponymous lexical items in Lutirichi. We sought to categorize the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms to understand the unique characteristics of hierarchical relationships observed in Lutirichi language in form of verbs, nouns and adjectives.

In the same vein, Mamah (2020) conducted a research on hyponyms of insects in Ouko Lect, Igbo. This study was focused to identify hyponyms of insects in Ovoko

lect and classify them based on their superordinate terms of hyponyms. It also used the complementary approach to analyze the hyponyms in Ovoko lect Igbo. However, this study was different from the present study as the present study was interested in the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms in form of verbs, nouns and adjectives and not only nouns (insects) as in Mamah's study.

Jumaeva (2024) investigated the hierarchical taxonomic structure of hyponyms, with more specific terms being subsumed under broader hypernyms. She argued that semantic features such as colour, shape, taste, and texture were identified to differentiate and classify hyponyms within specific categories. Her findings contribute to our understanding of the organization and characteristics of hyponyms in language. This study was vital to the present study as it aided in categorizing and describing the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms. It also aided the researcher understand the organization and characteristics of hyponyms in Lutirichi language and how the borrowed and coined lexical items from English and Kiswahili aided to build up hierarchical organizations which bring about the meaning variation which was the gap in the present study.

A research by Andriani (2023) investigated the central or core meanings of selected fruit, vegetable and flower names from the viewpoint of hypernym-hyponym relationships. Her data, consisting of 105 words from flower, fruit, and vegetable categories, were collected from the online Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language) with purposive sampling. In this study she used syntactic analysis to extract hypernym and hyponym patterns of the head nouns. Andriani examined central meanings using hypernym-hyponym classifications. The results of her study showed that the head nouns did not indicate the hypernym-hyponym relationships well because head nouns for fruits were plant (14

occurrences), tree (12), fruit (5), shrub (2), cactus (1), and type (1); for vegetables were vegetable (10), plant (10), shrub (8), allium (2), sprout (2), name (1), cassava (1), and pumpkin (1); and for flowers were tree (15), shrub (12), plant (6), and flower (2). According to Andriani's study, the definitions adopted no consistent hierarchical pattern and some of them went in a circle, which might confuse dictionary users. Her study implications were dictionary users ought to realize that some word definitions needed improving and lexicographers should pay proper attention to core meanings and hypernym-hyponym connections. This study was essential to the present study for it justified the lack of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers in Lutirichi hyponyms. The study also aided the researcher to achieve objective two: to examine meaning variations in the Lutirichi hyponyms. This was because the present study investigated the meaning of Lutirichi hyponyms that is derived from the context rather than from its original use/ the dictionary. Dictionaries can be beneficial for language learners, but they can confuse due to the context of meanings. The learners may find issues comprehending the core definitions of words (Lin et al.2017). Many factors cause such problems, such as the geographical locations that lead to a shift of meaning for the same word (Omar & Alotaibi 2017).

Caraballo (1999) used a hierarchical clustering technique to build a hyponymy hierarchy of nouns. The internal nodes were labeled by the syntactic constructions from Hearst (1992). Each internal node in the hierarchy could be represented by up to three nouns. Work by Riloff & Shepherd (1997) and Charniak & Roark (1998) aims to build semantic lexicons where the words included in each category or entry were related to, or were a member of the category. Sanderson & Croft (1999) built hierarchical structures of concepts on the basis of generality and specificity. They used material divided by different text categories and based the decision of

subsumption on term co-occurrence in the different categories. A term x was said to subsume y if the documents in which y occurred was a subset of the documents in which x occurred. The relations between concepts in their subsumption hierarchy were of different kinds (among other the hyponymy relation), and were unlabeled.

The above studies were relevant to the present study as they assisted the researcher to compare the hierarchical relationships of hyponyms in Lutirichi and other languages which eventually turned out to be very different. The present study proved that Lutirichi hyponyms had inadequate vocabulary to form hierarchical relationships which therefore resulted to borrowing of words from the English and Kiswahili languages in order to form the hierarchies.

Mathiot (1979:156), argues that most semantic fields hierarchical structure is not as neat and consistent as one would expect on the basis of some well-defined and much-analyzed semantic fields. Mathiot asserts that, the number of levels actively functioning in speakers' minds is usually limited to two or three. Moreover, he argues that native speakers of a language are often uncertain about the status of some intermediate or upper level terms, they are equally unaware of the existence of a superordinate term for a hyponym, or tend to disuse certain intermediate or upper level terms. In fact, hierarchical relations are highly unstable. He further posits that, they may change over time and may reflect different segmentations of reality coexisting within the same language at the same time. Multiple classifications are a characteristic feature of folk taxonomies, and also of other vocabulary domains of natural languages (Conklin 1962:130), and the number of multiple classifications is increasing under the influence of scientific and technological development.

Mathiot and Conklin contributions on hierarchical structures were very significant to the present study as they enabled the researcher understand the importance of the borrowed, blended and coined hyponyms from English and Kiswahili to Lutirich. The borrowed, blended and coined hyponyms enrich the Lutirichi language and are as a result of influence of scientific and technological development. These studies also helped the researcher to draw a line between the Lutirichi hyponyms hierarchical structures and other hierarchical structures in other languages especially English and Kiswahili which lead to the borrowing, blending and coining. This enabled the researcher to achieve objective one of the study: to categorize and describe the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms.

Komil (2024) noted that the relationship between hyponyms and hypernyms can be visualized as a taxonomic structure, often referred to as a hierarchy or a tree. At the top of the hierarchy, we have the most general term, which encompasses all other terms within the category. As we move down the hierarchy, the terms become more specific and specialized. The taxonomic structure allows us to understand the relationship between different concepts and their hierarchical arrangement. Komil's study is vital to the present study as it aided the researcher achieve objective one of the study thus; to categorize and describe the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi Hyponyms.

### **2.3 Lexical Semantic Variations in hyponyms**

According to Collins Dictionary (2023), variation is defined as the same thing presented in a slightly different form. Nagy and Meyerhoff (2008), note that linguistic variants can come from more than one language. They further classify variation in language into two sources or causes; internal and external sources.

Meyerhoff (2006) posits that external sources for variation are language contact, i.e., the impact of one variety upon another, spatial, socio cultural, and biological factors. They also explain that internal sources for variation are often called linguistic because they are assumed to pertain to the language or linguistic system. Allophones or allomorphy are examples of linguistic or internal variations. The meaning variation in Lutirichi hyponyms and hypernyms in the present study was due to language contact as stated by Nagy and Meyerhoff (2008). The variation in Lutirichi hyponyms and hypernyms was brought by the contact of Lutirichi, Swahili and English.

According to Filip (2008:8) “semantics is the investigation of significance communicated by components of any language, characterizable as a representative framework”. It is the objective of phonetic semantics to portray the importance of etymological components and to concentrate on the standards which permit and bar the task of significance to mixes of these components. Crystal (1997:100) characterizes semantics as "the investigation of significance in language". Previously, which means was managed as an idea on its own right. In current etymology, in spite of better approaches for investigating implications arose.

A study by Azinuddin (2021) analyzed and investigated the types of hyponyms and hyponyms categories that were dominant in the news based on semantic theory. The focus of the study was on news texts in the New York Times on political topics. The study provided a description and exposure of the hyponym type analysis data that was most dominant in the news. The previous study was important to the present research as it provided guidelines to the researcher. The previous research also provided the present researcher with relevant knowledge of hyponyms and hypernyms. The present research likewise aimed to assist future linguistic

researchers on hyponyms. The present study also aims to expose the speakers of Lutirichi to more hyponyms and hypernyms for publication of literature materials in their language.

According to Greeraerts (1985, 1987, 1989a, 1990) the various kinds of lexical variation may be systematically distinguished in the following way; there is the fact that words may mean several things - as with the more restricted and the more general reading of the word pant, the same kind of referent may be named by various semantically distinct lexical categories - as illustrated by the choice between jeans/blue jeans and trousers/pants: even though jeans and pants are not synonyms, there are situations in which both are appropriate names for a particular garment. In fact, any time jeans is appropriate, the hyperonymous term pants will be suited as well; the reverse, of course, is not the case. Other kinds of lexical variations according to Greeraerts include the same kind of referent may be named by various words, which may or may not differ from a semantic point of view; this type of variation, then, encompasses the previous one. Greeraerts further observes that, the choice between trousers and pants (in its general reading), for instance, may be influenced by considerations of formality and stylistic appropriateness, but does not involve denotational semantic differences of the type distinguishing jeans and trousers. Greeraerts observes further that even though they do not have precisely the same stylistic value (at least in British English, pants is more informal than trousers), trousers and pants (in its general reading) are equivalent as far as their meanings are concerned. Therefore, he asserts that in a situation in which a particular garment may receive the name jeans or pants or trousers, the pairs of alternatives have a different status. In choosing between jeans and trousers, for instance, the choice is not just between words, but between different semantic categories. In choosing between

trousers and pants, on the other hand, the choice is between words that are semantically equivalent, but that are invested with different stylistic values. Finally, Greeraerts posits that the stylistic distinction that exists between trousers and pants is an example of a more general contextual type of variation, involving the fact that a specific lexical phenomenon (such as a preference for expressing a particular meaning by means of one item rather than another) may be subject to the influence of contextual factors. This study was vital to the present study as it helped the researcher to investigate the meaning variations found in Lutirichi hyponyms. This is because some Lutirichi hyponyms deduce their meaning from the context rather than the original meaning of the hyponym. Greeraerts' study is essential to the present study for it also enabled the researcher to achieve the second objective of the study: to examine meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. According to Cruse (2000;356), many words have different hyponymic relationships depending on the context, based on the facet on their meaning. In the example he cites, the word a book has facets like TOME and TEXT, and it has hyponyms like paperback, novel words. Cruse's facet approach is designed to express the different types of relationships of words such as book without increasing the number of meanings and hierarchical nodes. Also, although Cruse introduced the term microsense into linguistics, the phenomenon of the complete taxonomy requires some prevention of word meanings. For example, there are many superordinates of the word knife, i.e. cutlery, weapon, surgical instrument, tool and they do not represent the importance of the facets of the word knife, but rather the types of knife and the different meanings of the word knife.

Cruse's argument on hyponymic relationships was significant to the present study as it guided the researcher on various variations of hyponyms which the researcher

found to be relevant to meaning variation in Lutirichi hyponyms. The researcher came across the following terminological distinctions of different kinds of variation namely; Semasiological variation which involves the situation that a particular lexical item may refer to distinct types of referent, Onomasiological variation which involves the situation that a referent or type of referent may be named by means of various conceptually distinct lexical categories, Formal variation which involves the situation that a particular referent or type of referent may be named by means of various lexical items, regardless of whether these represent conceptually different categories or not and Contextual variation which involves the situation that variational phenomena of the kind specified may themselves correlate with contextual factors such as the formality of the speech situation, or the geographical and Word meaning / lexical semantics. The present study found contextual variation to be the most relevant to the study as it examined how the meanings of words in Lutirichi language particularly hyponyms are frequently altered in their context of use so that the proposition expressed is different from the encoded sense.

### **2.3.1 Lexical Semantic variation due to borrowing**

According to Hoffer, (2002) borrowing is the importation of linguistic elements from one linguistic system into another, a process that emerges any time two cultures are in touch with each other, for duration of time. Regular contact between diverse communities leads to utilization of one another's lexis (borrowing) in reference to specific objects, methods, or thoughts. This puts forth a deep impact on both language development and joint understanding of societies (Sheng, 2009). Hope (1971) as cited by Hafiz (2015) indicates that 'linguistic borrowing' is a contradictory process as it involves, on the one hand, understanding and breaking

down the material in contact, and on the other hand, reconstructing it in compliance with the formal features of the recipient language.

Lexical borrowing happens between two languages where one language (the donor language) donates the words or concepts to be borrowed; while the other (the recipient language) borrows (Haspelmath 2008, 2009). In reality, any language can function as a donor language and a recipient language in any given situation. Typically, though, the donor language is usually the one with higher status and prestige than the recipient language (Haspelmath 2008, 2009). In most cases the language with higher status is often the language of the colonizing community. English is one such language According to Gatrovsek (2013) English enjoys a high-ranking reputation world-wide as a great lexical donor. He is of the view that it is the most dominant lexical donor language and which other languages extensively borrow from. English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in the early Medieval England. Associated with one of the major colonial powers in history, the language has spread to various speech communities in the world. It is the most widely spoken language in the world, with close to 400 million native speakers (Baruah 1992). Hafiz (2015) further points out that any language can be a borrowing language and also a donor language to several other languages. It is possible that there is no language entirely free of lexical borrowing; the only difference is that languages vary drastically in the number of lexical units which they borrow. Haspelmath and Hafiz studies are relevant to the current study as it examined how English and Kiswahili are donor languages to Lutirichi.

According to Treffers-Daller (2007) borrowing involves incorporation of features of one language into another. In the real sense anything can be borrowed – words, sounds, meaning, inflections or even grammatical categories. Of these lexical items

are the most prominent (Lehrer, 1974). They are one of the aspects of language that contribute to meaning. Most cases of lexical borrowing are culturally motivated (Haspelmath, 2008). This is so because borrowing a cultural object or concept is normally accompanied by the borrowing of a lexical item. This type of borrowing is usually the most common. There are however other cases of borrowing that were not motivated in such a manner. There are cases where a word already exists in the recipient language yet the speakers go ahead and borrow from the donor language (Haspelmath, 2008). The present study found Treffers', Lehrer's and Haspelmath's ideas apt to this study because the present study is interested the lexical items and their meanings borrowed from Kiswahili and English.

Redouane (2001) defines lexical borrowing as the integration of new terms into a language. This process of borrowing can be termed as 'adoption', as speakers adopt elements from another language into their own. The language from which the property is obtained is known as the 'source (or donor) language', while the acquiring language is known as the 'recipient (or borrowing) language.' The above definition was relevant to the current study since it investigated how Lurichi speakers adopted elements specifically hyponyms from English and Kiswahili.

Most of the new lexical items in a language are acquired through borrowing. Borrowing is a usual term for the process by which a language (or variety) takes on new linguistic material from another language (variety) (Haspelmath, 2003). There are several different types of lexical borrowing. Scholars have classified lexical borrowings differently (Ross, 1991; Haugen 1950; Myers - Scotton, 2002). Haugen's taxonomy of borrowed items is the most preferred because of its practical approach. Haugen (1950) came up with a typology where he identified four types of borrowed words. Borrowed words can be either loan words, loan shifts, loan translations or

loan blends. The present study however, found loan shifts essential, this is because according to Haugen, 1953, loan shifts occur when the meaning of a native word is extended so that it corresponds to that of a borrowed concept or object in the SL. This, however, does not mean that the native word completely loses its original meaning to acquire a new one. Instead it acquires a new range of meaning while retaining the old one (Burton, 2002). Haugen (1953) talks of extending the native word's meaning so that it corresponds to that of the SL. Haugen (1950) distinguishes between loanwords (where form and meaning are copied completely) from loan blends (words consisting of a copied part and a native part) and also loan shifts (where only the meaning is copied). The Chinese word *baibai* is a loanword borrowed from English 'bye-bye' and is used in the same context and with the same meaning (Hall-Lew, 2002).

The word 'monolingual' is a loan blend because it has a Greek prefix and a Latin root. Loan shifts can be either translations or semantic borrowings. Loan translations show replication of the structure of a foreign language, word or expression by one of the synonymous word(s) from the borrowing language. For example, in German *fern sehen* literally means 'far seeing'. It is borrowed from translated elements of television in English and television in French, the first element from Greek *telos* 'far' and the second from Latin *visio* 'sight'. Semantic loans (semantic broadening) show extension of meaning of a word as a result of association with the meaning of a partly synonymous word in another language.

Concerning lexical borrow ability, nouns are borrowed more easily than other parts of speech (Moravcsik, 1978). The explanations for these are that nouns are referential and one of the motivating factors for borrowing is to extend the referential potential of a language (Van Hout & Muysken, 1994). Secondly, the insertion of

nouns in another language is less disruptive of the predicate argument structure. Verbs are the next to be borrowed in the borrow ability scale. It has been argued that verbs are difficult to borrow because of their difficult inflection. If they are borrowed, they seem to be borrowed as nouns. The receptor language employs its own denominal verbalization to turn them into verbs before using them as loanwords (Moravcsik (1975; 2003)). For example in this study, Gichuka has borrowed the noun 'retire' from English and the verb is 'kuretire' meaning 'to retire'. The prefixation of the prefix ku- turns the word into a verb. Ku-- is the prefix for verbs in Gichuka. Adjectives and adverbs are in third and fourth position respectively in respect to borrow ability. Field (2002) observes that agglutinative affixes are borrowed more easily than fusional affixes. The present study found these views vital as it was focused on borrowing of nouns, verbs and adjectives of Lutirichi hyponyms from English and Kiswahili which are then used differently in Lutirichi with a different meaning therefore revealing the lexical semantic variation, a gap this present study is out to fill. For example the word 'blue' in English is a hyponym of colour but when borrowed to Lutirichi it is used to mean trouble.

Weinreich (2011:53) states that the motive for lexical borrowing tended to highlight speakers' perceptions of gaps, "the need for names for certain objects, concepts, e.t.c." with which a language community is newly faced in a changed cultural situation. The present study finds Weinreich views ideal for the study as one of the reasons of borrowing of the Lutirichi hyponyms is to cater for the inadequate vocabulary in formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers. Weinreich (2011:53) Matras (2009:168) Campbell (2013:58) outlines that borrowing and coining of words is as a result of prestige attached to the source language. According to Matseshe (2020), notes that lexical borrowing involves the transfer of

lexical items into a language when there is interaction of speakers. The study by Sylvester L. et al., (2020) focused on the distribution of French origin borrowings at various levels of technicality and at various levels of co-hyponymic density (i.e., the number of words per sense). Muysken (1994), shares these views and observes that it is the major class content words such as nouns, verbs and adjectives that are the most likely to be borrowed, although their distribution is not the same across languages. In line with these views the present study focused on the transfer of content words particularly nouns, verbs and adjectives into spoken Lutirichi from English and Kiswahili.

However, the present study focused on Kiswahili and English lexical items that Lutirichi, a Luhya language has borrowed and coined from other languages and the reasons to why these lexical items / hyponyms were borrowed. It was observed that these borrowings often reflect cultural exchanges, technological advancements, and global trends, contributing to the linguistic diversity and richness of the language. Neologisms, or newly coined words, represent another avenue through which a language thus for this case the Lutirichi vocabulary expands.

Crystal views semantic change as “perhaps the most obvious of linguistic change” (1987:330). According to Lehrer (1974) lexical items carry the bulk of semantic component and lexical changes seem to be the most noticeable and particularly in lexical borrowing (Falk,1973). The phenomenon of lexical borrowing and semantic change is a major concern of this study.

According to Blank (1995) words are always borrowed with one specific meaning at a given time. A similar view is expressed by Bloomfield (1933) who observes that each word has one central meaning and other marginal or occasional meaning.

However the original source language meaning can change in the process of borrowing, a fact recognized by these authors. Other authors who have written extensively on semantic change include Croft (2000) and Winter-Froemel (2000). They categorize semantic change into broadening, narrowing, semantic shift and metaphorical change

The present study is in total agreement with Blank and Bloomfield views on semantic variation of lexical items, who postulate that semantic shifts further shape the trajectory of a language vocabulary, as meanings of words evolve over time. Whether through metaphorical extension, semantic bleaching, or semantic narrowing, words continually undergo subtle or dramatic transformations in their usage and connotations.

Haspelmath, (2009) and Hock & Brian, (2009) postulates that borrowing is a natural process of language development, and no language in the world, except in very rare exceptions, can avoid contacting other languages. The term "borrowing" is used in modern linguistics in two meanings. In the broad sense, "borrowing" is regarded in connection with the theory of language contact, with the interaction of language systems as one of the ways for an enrichment of the language vocabulary. The term "borrowing" is used in the narrow sense for indicating the process of an entry and adaptation of the vocabulary borrowed which is transferred from one language to another one as a result of language contacts but not as a result of historical (genetic) development for an improvement of the language as a means of communication and perception (Carstensen, 1992; Haugen, 1950). The above views on borrowing by the linguists are essential to the present study as Luterichi as any other language cannot do without borrowing for the reasons stated above.

In addition, it was also noted that some of these borrowed hyponyms in Lutirichi have experienced semantic shift. Therefore, the present study posits that words frequently change their meanings over time, and pursue such change often illustrates cultural and historical shifts. A "cultural shift" in semantics refers to a change in word meaning primarily driven by evolving cultural norms, societal attitudes, or technological advancements, while a "historical shift" encompasses broader changes in word meaning over time, often including cultural factors but also influenced by regular linguistic processes like metaphor and metonymy, regardless of specific cultural contexts.

#### **2.4 Lexical Semantic variation due to age**

According to Chambers and Trudgil (1980: 166) For many years studies of linguistic change in progress relied on the concept of 'apparent time'. This involves analysing the speech of a structured sample of people of different ages, and assuming that patterns of variation that differ from the 'normal' pattern indicate that a change is in progress in the community. It has long been recognised, however, that the concept of apparent time is problematic. Behaviour that we may assume to be generation-specific may in fact reflect age-grading, so that it will be outgrown as speakers grow older, and will not become part of the community norms. It cannot be assumed either, that older speakers are not influenced by the speech of younger members of the community, and vice-versa. Chambers and Trudgill felt obliged in 1980 to comment that 'the hypothesis of apparent time remains to be tested'. The present study is in agreement with Chambers and Trudgil that age influence the language of a speaker. The lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms is realized more in adults of 46 years and above as compared to the age below 45 years.

According to Labov (1994, 107) that individuals tend to preserve their speech patterns as they move through their lifespan. Therefore, the present study focused on the way Lurich speakers use hyponyms according to their age differences.

## **2.5 Hyponymy and Entailment**

According to Cambridge Dictionary (2021) entailment is the relationship between two statements when for one to be true, the other must also be true. Kreidler (1998:12) argues that entailment refers to two statements which may be related in such a way that if one is true, the other must be true. Yule (1998:129) states that entailment is something that follows from what is mentioned before. Crystal (1998:169) defines entailment as a term delivered from logic, and has been used as a part of the study of semantics; which is called as entailingness. Therefore, entailment refers to a relation between a pair of propositions where the truth of second proposition necessarily follows the truth of the first. For example: I can see a dog entails I can see an animal. One cannot assert the first sentence and deny the second one.

Entailment plays the same role in hyponyms as the truth in the second proposition necessarily follows the truth in the first. This is also well stated by Griffith(2006:25) entailment happens when the truth of one proposition depends on the other. It means that the truth of two propositions correlates with one another. However, according to Rambaud (2012:70), entailments are related to the knowledge of a particular language, and it has nothing to do with the knowledge of the truth. In other words, in entailments, the meanings of two sentences correlate to each other without regarding the reality of the word. Due to semantic variations in some of Lurich hyponyms, the present study tends to differ with definitions of entailment stated above by Yule, Crystal and Griffith in the sense that entailment in some of Lurich hyponyms is

lost during the usage of the hyponyms in the language. Therefore, the present is in agreement with Rambaund that entailments are related to the knowledge of a particular language, and it has nothing to do with the knowledge of the truth.

According to Cruse (2000), entailment has a context-bound relation with regard to identity and inclusion relations. Entailment occurs freely with propositional synonymy. Although the two lexical items in near synonymy are close in meanings or related, entailment relation cannot be attained. Entailment in hyponymy is a unilateral relation. i.e., the meaning of one hyponym entails the meaning of the superordinate, but the meaning of the superordinate does not entail the meaning of each hyponym. Entailment in meronymy relation stands if the relation is between patronym to holonym, i.e., the entailment relation does not stand under holonym to partonym. Cruse's views on entailment and hyponymy are crucial to the present study as the hyponyms in Lutirichi share the same characteristics as stated by Cruse. This is because the present study was interested in the semantic variations of Lutirichi hyponyms from one context to another context of usage. Whereby, the meanings of some Lutirichi hyponyms vary in sense when used in different contexts.

Bertuccelli P. (1997:141) asserts that entailment is "a relation between semantic units, which is propositions, and it is drawn from classical logic. As such it is defined regarding valid inferences, or, alternatively, in terms of truth values: A entails B if B is true whenever A is true (or, in all worlds where A is true, B is true" Miao (2020) presented the importance of lexical/sense relations in learning vocabulary. The researcher deduced that meanings of vocabulary are largely determined by the lexical sense relations, which makes the understanding and analysis of lexical sense relations helpful in the mastery of meanings of words. Bertuccelli and Miao views on entailment and sense relations are crucial to the

present study as these views are the characteristics of hyponyms. However, these two characteristics of hyponyms lack in some of Lutirichi hyponyms which prompted the researcher to fill this gap in linguistics hence achieve objective three ; to describe how the usage based theory influence entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms..

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted the principles and tenets of two theories to investigate the lexical semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. The study thus applied the main tenets of the usage-based theory Bybee and Beckener, (2010). In addition, the principles of the semantic field theory (Trier,1931) were used in order to explain how words acquired their meaning through their relationships to other words within the same word-field.

### **2.6.1 The Usage-Based Theory**

The Usage-Based theory originated with Wittgenstein (1953). The theory views grammar as a derivative of language, not a prerequisite. Wittgenstein argued that meaning in use represents an approach to the functional or semantic dimension of linguistic communication. The intention was to combat the idea that meanings are things and instead focus on how people use linguistic conventions to achieve social ends. That structure emerges from use and represents an approach to the structural or grammatical dimension of linguistic communication.

Usage-based linguists argue that the structure and organization of a speaker's linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance and as such language is seen as a dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena (Bybee and Beckener, 2010). According to the proponents, Usage-based theory takes language to be an embodied and social human behaviour. This theory provides the present study with useful

insights on the usage of a language which according to this study is derivative but not prerequisite. Thus, explaining that Luterich hyponyms are seen as dynamic while in use which leads to semantic variations, a gap this study is set to fill.

The theory thus contrasts with the generative paradigm's focus on competence over performance and instead highlights usage for the understanding of the cognitive organization of language.

The theory postulates that the units and structure of language emerge out of specific communicative events and strives to avoid relying on innate knowledge specific to the domain of language. A usage-based model thus takes as its null hypothesis the view that language is an extension of other cognitive domains. In light of this, the theory seeks to derive the mechanisms of language from more general and basic capacities of the human brain. The theory further argues that linguistic categories are just like categories from any other cognitive domain as manifested in item-specific internal structure to categories in phonology, morphology and grammatical constructions (Miller 1994, Bybee and Moder 1983), Goldberg and Giudice 2005; Bybee and Eddington 2006).

Across domains, categorization allows us to map continuously varied input into equivalence classes in some context, on the basis of shared properties (Humbert 2001). Although input having varied properties can be grouped together, category membership is a gradient, rather than an absolute, phenomenon. Nosofsky, 1988 argues that people retain memories of individual members of a category, since the structure of categories is known to be influenced by the frequency with which particular items are experienced.

Wittgensten's theory is vital to the present study since it is used to account for the necessary elements in categorization and the description of the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms. As noted earlier, categorization allows us to map continuously varied input into equivalence classes in some context, on the basis of shared properties. The Lutirichi hyponyms has various categories just as other languages like English and Kiswahili, although, these categories experience inadequate vocabulary which then leads to borrowing and coining of Lutirichi hyponyms from the two languages stated above.

### **2.6.2 The Semantic Field Theory**

The Semantic Field Theory was propounded by Trier (1931). Trier (1931) introduced the term lexical field (or semantic field) that he defined as a set of semantically related words whose meanings delimit each other. Thus, the meaning of a word can only be fully determined in terms of contrasts in which it stands with other words in the field. From a diachronic perspective, this means that any change in the meaning of one word affects the meaning of other words to which it is related. According to Trier, the members of a field cover a whole conceptual or objective domain without any gaps or overlaps, i.e. the boundaries of a lexical field can be clearly delimited. Later, Boran (2018) stated that the vocabulary of a language is a system of interrelated lexical networks but not a collection of independent items. Boran further postulates that, vocabulary of a language is organized into fields within which words interrelate and define each other in various ways. Trier's & Boran's theory is essential to the present study as it was used to examine meaning variation in Lutirichi hyponyms. Trier states that the meaning of words can only be fully determined in terms of contrasts in which it stands with other words in the field. Likewise the present study examined how Lutirichi hyponyms changes their meanings when used

in different contexts. The study also found this relevant as it enabled the present study to achieve objective three of the study which accounted for the role of entailment in Luterichi hyponyms.

According to (Nordquist, 2017) a semantic field is a set of words (or lexemes) which are related in meaning. Semantic field is also known as a word field, lexical field, field of meaning, and semantic system. Semantic field more specifically is as a set of lexemes which covers a certain conceptual domain and which bear certain specifiable relations to one another (Lehrer (1985). In order to clarify the meaning of semantic field and exemplify it, Nordquist (2017;1) states that “the words in a semantic field share a common semantic property. Most often, fields are defined by subject matter, such as body parts, landforms, diseases, colours, foods, or kinship relations.”Crystal (1992) points out the significance of context and points out that “...it is always necessary to consider context before assigning a lexical item to a field-for example, hospital relates to both the semantic field of health (as in ‘I was in hospital last week’) and that of buildings (as in ‘The hospital needs a new roof)’” (p. 347).

The core of semantic field theory is to analyze the relationship between genus and species of lexical study. (Mei, 1987) It suggests that the words of a language system are related with each other and they form a complete lexical system. In this system, certain words could form a semantic field under a common concept. For example, under the concept of stationery, pen, eraser, pencil, ruler and etc. could form a semantic field. In this semantic field, stationery represents the genus, or in other words, general concept; pen, eraser, pencil, and ruler represent species, or specific concept. In short, semantic field is a combination of a group of words that interact, dominate, distinguish and depend on each other. The semantic range of the combination is called the field range of the semantic field. Therefore, the semantic

field theory is significant to the present study it explains clearly the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Semantic field can be also called lexical field or domain, which refers to the combination of a bunch of words with interrelated meanings and dominated under a same concept.(Zhou, 2001)It has two folds of meanings. Some words, from a language, which were dominated under one certain concept, combined together and formed a semantic field. This certain concept may be represented by a superordinate, while the semantic field is formed from either hyponyms or semantic features. For example, under the common concept of furniture, words like table, closet, bed, bookshelf, couch, sofa, chairs, etc., could be gathered as a semantic field. Another example, burgundy, purple, pink, green, yellow, blue, orange, white and black, these words go to a common concept of color. On the other hand, words that belong to the same semantic field are not only semantically related, but also interact with each other. That is to say, when checking the meaning of a word, the first step is to compare the semantic meaning of the other words under the same semantic field.

Wu (1988, p.94-95) summarized Trier's semantic field theory as follows: 1 The vocabulary in a language system is semantically related and builds up a complete lexical system. This system is unsteady and changing constantly. 2 Since the vocabulary of a language is semantically related, we are not supposed to study the semantic change of individual words in isolation, but to study vocabulary as an integrated system. 3 Since lexemes are interrelated in sense, we can only determine the connotation of a word by analyzing and comparing its semantic relationship with other words. A word is meaningful only in its own semantic field. Trier's semantic field is generally considered paradigmatic. It deals with paradigmatic relations between words such as hyponymy, synonymy and antonymy.

Hyponymy is the most common branch of semantic field theory. It contains all objects that belong to the same category. The most fundamental category is dualistic, for example, paddy field and upland field, autorotation and revolution, etc. Another category is diversified, for example, navy, marine, air force, etc. Hyponymy can be multileveled, which means the basic level could be divided into more specific levels, and even more specific ones. For instance, we could divide animals into human being and birds and beasts, yet birds and beasts could be further divided into birds, fishes, insects and mammals, etc. And the mammals could also be specifically divided into pigs, dogs, cows, wolves and horses, etc. And finally, for example, horses can be further divided into broncos, stallions, ponies and so on. These divisions implicate the system of hyponymy, which is basically the superordinate-hyponym semantic field, also called general terms and specific terms. Trier's theory was adopted in the present study to aid in analyzing various levels of the Lutirichi hyponyms, as noted earlier that hyponymy can be multileveled, which means the basic level could be divided into more specific levels, and even more specific ones.

## **2.7 Chapter Summary**

This chapter reviewed literature on hyponymous sense relations and theoretical framework. It particularly outlined the key concepts that the different studies look at in relation to semantic variations due to borrowing of lexical items in a language. The section also reviewed the notion of entailment as a crucial component in sense relations. The chapter also examined the Usage- Based Approach and the Semantic Field Theory that guided the study. The next chapter focuses on the research methodology that was used to collect and analyze data.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section presents a descriptive account of the methods that were adopted by the researcher in gathering and processing data with regards to this study. The chapter is organized into subsections as follows; research design, research site, population and sampling, research instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis and presentation, ethical consideration.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The present study adopted a descriptive research design (Koh & Owen, 2000). This was because the data was majorly qualitative. According to Mugenda & Mugenda (1999), the descriptive approach determines and reports the way things are and helps to generate hypotheses as opposed to testing them. Thus, the data was not controlled or were the variables manipulated by the researcher. The units of data analysis were in the form of lexical items which were analyzed descriptively.

#### **3.3 Area of Study**

The research site was in Hamisi sub-county which is one of the five sub-counties found in Vihiga County namely: Luanda, Emuhaya, Hamisi, Vihiga and Sabatia. It is inhabited by Lutirichi native speakers. It covers an area of 189.1km<sup>2</sup> with seven wards being Shamakhokho, Shiru, Muhudu, Banja, Tambua, Jebukoyai and Gisamba i(NG-CDF)(Appendix VIII). The participants were drawn from Banja ward and Shamakhokho ward. The two wards were selected because they were convenient to the researcher and were also neighbouring Serem area (Appendix VIII) which is believed to inhabit the Terik speaking people from the Nilotic group of languages. According to (Anjiji,2008) and (Sangale,2005), the name Abatirichi is thought to

have come into existence as a result of the bearers being in close contact with the Terik speaking people which is thought to be true basing on the circumcision rites of Abatirichi which is similar to those of the Terik. The researcher was therefore guaranteed to the data needed from these two wards. An investigation of Lutirichi also had an advantage to the researcher who understood and spoke it. This was based on Blount's(1971) demonstration of the difficulties of studying a language that one is not very familiar with.

### **3.4 Study Population**

There were two types of populations for this study; the people and the units of analysis. The first population comprised of participants drawn among native speakers of Lutirichi. The second population for this study which formed the units of analysis were the lexical items thus Lutirichi hyponyms in form of words generated from the selected FGDs formed. The researcher targeted to collect 20 hypernyms, 130 hyponyms and 100 hyponymy subtype words in every category of the three categories for analysis which totals to 250 words.. These categories included: hypernym, hyponym, and hyponymy subtype. The FGDs were expected to provide linguistic data to the researcher who later analyzed the data and select only what was appropriate for the study. This is according to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) that data obtained from the field in raw form is difficult to interpret until it is cleaned, coded and key punched into a computer and then analysed. Therefore, collected data was systematically organized into a manner that facilitated analysis so the researcher could make sense out of it and describe.

Barasa (2017) asserts that the choice of respondents is supplemented by the researcher gauging the respondent's proficiency based on ability to articulate expressions, ability to provide clear and consistent tonal distinctions and the ability

to produce speech that is free from impediments. The researcher drew out the hyponyms purposively from the corpus gathered from the FGDs in the study.

### **3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

To bring about a sufficient and synchronized number of lexical items and relevant data, the researcher sampled the population in a way that would make the work manageable and practical within the time period and resources available for the present study. In this regard, the researcher used a purposeful sampling strategy to identify Lutirichi native speakers. In the present study, the researcher made use of the following criterion to pick the participants: the participants had to be native Lutirichi speakers who had been using the language for the majority of their lives and had lived among the Abatirichi.

The study chose native speakers with high levels of language competency. It is believed that elderly native speakers (46 years to 75 years) have continuously employed the language and hence achieved sufficient competency in their first language (L1) (Rosa, 2016). Adult native speakers aged 35 years to 75 years were included in this sample. These age groups are acknowledged under the Kenyan Constitution, G.O.K. (2010), Article 260. The article (G.O.K, 2010) refers to a person aged 18 to 35 as a youth. Anyone beyond the age of 18 is considered an adult, while those under the age of 18 are classified as children. Senior citizens are defined as those who are 65 years of age or older. In this study, senior citizens will be identified as a key demographic group whose speech patterns, particularly their use of hyponyms, are analyzed. The study considered participants aged 35 and up to be the ideal representation of maturity based on this age differentiation. Adams & Baynham (2006) postulate that individual's' life experiences and exposure to various social environments generally increase as they age. This may culminate in the use of

more complex sentence structures, a larger vocabulary, and the ability to articulate complex or abstract concepts. Older participants may evince more refined pragmatic language skills including a greater ability to navigate subtle social cues.

The researcher looked for Lutirichi native speakers who had specific experiences and possessed relevant knowledge, thus those who had completed form four and could effectively communicate in both English and Lutirichi. Creswell (2017) posits that large samples tend to be unnecessary for linguistic surveys because linguistic behavior is apparently more homogeneous than other types of human behavior studied in social survey.

On that account, the study settled on a sample size of 50 participants who were native speakers of Lutirichi. She further grouped the participants into groups of 10 members which formed five groups of FGDs. During the FGDs, the researcher created a list of open-ended questions that were designed to stimulate the discussion and encouraged participants to share their views. The researcher then took notes and recorded the relevant data she needed thus the hyponyms and hypernyms in Lutirichi language to allow for later analysis. The researcher applied stratified systematic sampling in the sense that 6 out of the initial collected 20 hypernyms, 43 out of the 130 hyponyms and 33 out of the 100 hyponymy subtypes were selected for analysis. Every third (82) lexical item from the set was chosen out of the 250 collected to ensure a representative and unbiased sample. This approach was used to balance the need for a manageable sample size while maintaining methodological consistency,

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods and Elicitation Procedure**

Data collection in the present study depended on both the primary and secondary sources. Kombo and Tromp (2006) differentiated between primary and secondary

sources of data by asserting that primary data is gathered directly from FGDs discussion while secondary data has already been collected by other researchers. However, secondary data was scant since it was randomly picked from previous researches or documents in which hyponyms in Lutirichi had been used.

Primary data was collected from FGDs and word lists. The researcher gathered data through the audio recordings from the FGDs which had been formed from identified appropriate groups of participants who shared a common characteristic and relevant experience. Therefore, the participants were drawn from the native speakers of Lutirichi. The researcher made the discussions more flexible enough as possible as the questions and the order in which they were asked, were not set, they were open-ended. The discussions were free and friendly and there was a kin conversation among people who were familiar to each other thus allowing a free flow of discussion as the researcher recorded. This flexibility helped the researcher to gather detailed information on hyponyms, while still observing patterns between participants as the deeper connection with the participants encouraged them to feel comfortable thus revealing their true opinions and emotions.

The researcher used an audio recorder to gather the responses as given throughout the interaction process. The participation of all these participants depended on their availability and the contacts that the researcher was able to make. These audio recordings consisted of informal conversations involving the researcher and the participants in the home and business domains of interaction. This recording took a maximum of 21 days and each recording lasted for about fifteen minutes after which the researcher replayed the audio in order to pick out the utterances that constituted the corpus of the study for transcription. The researcher gathered the hyponyms and the hypernyms to make a word list. Each individual response was noted down to aid

in the analysis and presentation of data for the study. The researcher found this technique beneficial in order to achieve objective one which categorized and described the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms.

### **3.7 Data Collection**

The researcher used Focus Group Discussions and word lists as methods of data collection.

#### **3.7.1 Audio Recording**

The recordings were applied to purposively selected participants in FGDs. It was from the FGDs that the conversations were listened to and audio-recorded. These audio recordings consisted of informal conversations involving the researcher and the participants in the home and business domains of interaction. The recording was done over a period of three weeks and each recording lasted about fifteen minutes. The study found this technique significant in order to achieve objective one and two which categorized and described the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms as well as examined meaning variations of Lutirichi hyponyms.

#### **3.7.2 Focus Groups Discussion**

Krueger (1994) defined FGD as discussions that gather data in a friendly, non-threatening environment. He also observed that focus groups are used for generating information on collective views, and the meanings that lie behind those views. They are also useful in generating a rich understanding of participants' experiences and beliefs. Therefore, it is easy to gather all the data required using FGDs as the participants discuss freely without any pressure or fear.

According to Stewart and Shamdasani (1990) in Matseshe (2020), Focus Group Discussions provide a direct and open-response interaction among participants and

between the moderator and the participants. Therefore, interaction in these groups is not only important for what it tells us about people's views or their language, but also because it involves participants responding to each other. Through this, the participants are able to reconsider or re-evaluate their own understandings and experiences. Additionally, meanings are constantly negotiated, renegotiated and constructed in interaction with others in the group (Kitzinger, 1995).

This study found it an apt technique to help the researcher achieve objective one and two which described the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms and examined contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. In the present study, the FGDs discussed the categories and the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms. FGDs also examined contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms.

### **3.7.3 Word Lists**

A Word list which is referred to as an essential tool in vocabulary teaching, Palinkasevic (2017) was used. The word list was purposed to serve as a methodological guide for future researchers interested in specific word list information. The word list here consisted of hypernyms and hyponyms in Lutirichi language.

### **3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation**

The linguistic units of analysis were lexical items, and that was precisely hyponyms and hypernyms in Lutirichi language. The study presented and analysed the lexical items in form of single words. Out of the 20 hypernyms transcribed lexical items, the study systematically sampled 6 of the hypernyms, out of 130 hyponyms transcribed 43 of the hyponyms and out of 100 hyponym sub-type 33 were transcribed

representing nouns, verbs and adjectives. The researcher used content analysis which according to (Weber, 1990), is an approach for systematically analysing and making inferences from text and other forms of qualitative information e.g. from Focus Group Discussions and interviews.

The data in the present study was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The researcher adopted a thematic analysis technique in which according to Kombo and Tromp (2006), the major concepts and themes are identified. In the present study, the major concepts and themes were the notions of entailment and lexical semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Data was gathered and analyzed on the basis of lexical semantic variations in meaning that was revealed in the hyponyms in Lutirichi. The data was also collected and analyzed on the basis of the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. The analyzed data was clustered into three sub-sections.

The first sub-section comprised of the lexical items, which included the hypernyms and their hyponyms. This was classified into their peculiar categories (parts of speech), like for instance verbs, nouns and adjectives. The data was presented in form of a word list to capture objective one which was to categorize and describe the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms.

The second sub-section comprised of semantic variation which revealed the variation that exists in the Lutirichi hyponyms. These included hyponyms and hypernyms of Lutirichi. The data was presented in form of a table to capture objective two which was to examine contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms.

The third sub-section comprised of entailment, which revealed the vital role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. This further revealed the inadequate vocabulary

in Lutirichi hyponyms that hindered hierarchical relationship which was different from other languages. The data was presented in the form of texts to capture objective three: to account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. The researcher heavily relied on views given by different FGDs in the study.

### **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

A pre-requisite to the field activity of data collection is the conservation of ethics. Data collection in the present study was determined by approval from the respective stakeholders at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology: the School of Graduate. The researcher also relied on permission granted by the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies in the same institution.

The researcher got a letter of approval to carry out research and applied for a research permit from NACOSTI before commencing research. The present study was social in nature and therefore carried out an interview through a face-to-face interaction between the researcher and the respondents.

Kombo and Tromp (2006) as cited in Alloys (2021), posits that, researchers whose subjects are people or animals must consider the conduct of their research and give attention to ethical issues associated with carrying out their research. The researcher met good conduct while carrying out the FGDs. This was maintained by embracing the following ethical issues: seeking informed consent, maintain confidentiality at all times, to be true and win the trust of the participants. Data collection in this study required that the researcher seeks consent from the respondents before engaging them in gathering data for the study. The researcher also maintained confidentiality at all times.

This was done by concealing the identity of all participants in the study. This is because not all participants gave correct answers as expected. However, despite the human errors the researcher treated all participants with respect and dignity. The researcher made sure she also focused on openness and honesty when dealing with participants. The above attributes were observed by the researcher to attract the willingness of the participants. Therefore, this ensured maximum cooperation of participants to participate in the study.

### **3.10 Chapter Summary**

This chapter has discussed methodology used for data collection and analysis for the present research. Details on the research design, target population and the area of study are outlined.

The chapter further gives information on the sample size, data collection methods and the tools, data presentation and the validity and reliability. Finally, the chapter presents the conventional ethical considerations that the research process adhered to.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the investigation on the Lexical Semantic Variations in Lutirichi Hyponyms. The chapter comprises of an analysis of the three objectives of the study, which were to: categorize the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms, examine contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms and account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. The data was analyzed within the tenets and the principles of the Usage-Based Approach Theory (UBAT) (Bybee & Beckener,2010) which argues that grammar is a derivative of language, not a prerequisite and the Semantic Field Theory (Boran,2018) which postulates that the meaning of a word can only be fully determined in terms of contrasts in which it stands with other words in the field.

This chapter's analysis is based on data gathered through primary data collection thus, Focus Group Discussions and secondary data collection. The study begins by describing the categories and the descriptions of the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms.

##### 4.1.1 Categories of hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms

The first objective of the study investigated the various categories of hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms. According to Mathiot (1979), most semantic field hierarchical structure is not as neat and consistent as one would expect on the basis of some well-defined and much-analyzed semantic fields. The number of levels actively functioning in speakers' minds is usually limited to two or three. Moreover, native speakers of a language are often uncertain about the status of some

intermediate or upper level terms, they are equally unaware of the existence of a superordinate term for a hyponym, or tend to disuse certain intermediate or upper level terms. In fact, hierarchical relations are highly unstable. They may change over time and may reflect different segmentations of reality coexisting within the same language at the same time.

The data collected through the help of the FGDs in the present study established that the Lutirichi hyponyms are categorized in hierarchical relationships. . However, there was a significant variations discovered in the Lutirichi language when it comes to the number of layers in the hierarchical relationships. For instance, Lutirichi hyponyms has either one or two layers in most hyponyms. Mathiot (1979:156), argues that most semantic fields hierarchical structure is not as neat and consistent as one would expect on the basis of some well-defined and much-analyzed semantic fields.

The number of levels actively functioning in speakers' minds is usually limited to two or three. Moreover, native speakers of a language are often uncertain about the status of some intermediate or upper level terms, they are equally unaware of the existence of a superordinate term for a hyponym, or tend to disuse certain intermediate or upper level terms. In fact, hierarchical relations are highly unstable. They may change over time and may reflect different segmentations of reality coexisting within the same language at the same time. Lutirichi hyponyms have changed over time due to borrowing in order to obtain a well defined semantic field. The study therefore, employed the Semantic Field Theory by Boran (2018) who stated that the vocabulary of a language is a system of interrelated lexical networks but not a collection of independent items. Boran further postulates that, vocabulary of a language is organized into fields within which words interrelate and define each other in various ways. From the data collected, various categories of hierarchical

relationships and multiple of layers in a number of Lutirichi hyponyms were identified. The categories were classified in terms of adjectives, nouns and verbs as analysed below.

**Table 4.1 Lutirichi hyponyms for adjectives**

<b>HYPERNYM</b>	<b>HYPONYM</b>	<b>HYPONYMY SUBTYPE</b>
<i>Vucheeri</i> (Intelligence)	<i>Vucheeri</i> (intelligence)	None
	<i>-Limaanya</i> (wisdom)	None
	<i>-vuusiirya</i> (gifted)	none
<i>Likoondo</i> (Colours)	<i>-ya mayaai</i> (yellow)	None
	<i>-ya buulu</i> (blue)	None
	<i>-ya-vuliimo</i> (green)	None
	<i>-ya-maloova</i> (brown)	None
	<i>-imuuchi</i> (red)	None
	<i>-imwaamu</i> (black)	None
	<i>-Indaavu</i> (white)	None
	<i>-ya paapo</i> (purple)	None
	<i>-murhandaavule</i> (gray)	None
<i>Shipimoo</i> (size)	<i>-shighaali</i> (big)	None
	<i>-shitiitiiti</i> (small)	none
<i>Happy</i> (khuyantsa)	<i>-sangaala</i> (joy)	None
	<i>-khuyantsitswa</i> (delighted)	None
	<i>-luyali</i> (pleasure)	None
	<i>-contentment</i> ( <i>nyalukha</i> )	None
	<i>-vuyansi vu khusanditsa saana</i> (gladness)	none

Consider the following examples:

Example 1

Hypernym- *Likoondo* (Colors)



Hyponym- *Ya buulu* (blue)



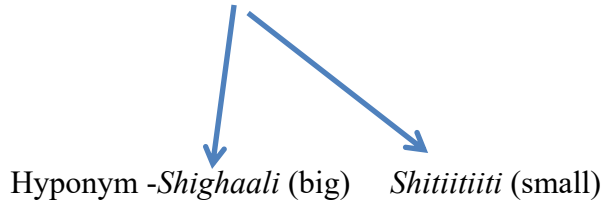
No shades of colour blue

In example 1 above, the word blue, a hyponym for colour in English has been coined to ‘*Ya buulu*’ in Lutirichi in order to enable the language get a hyponym thus a layer for this colour which was actually missing .Therefore, it was established that there is inadequate hyponyms in Lutirichi which leads to borrowing and coining in order to fill this gap. Grabmann, 2015 postulates that languages expand their vocabulary using the usual word-formation processes such as: derivation, compounding, blending, and clipping. Moreover, languages can also achieve this goal through borrowing new words from other languages with which they come in contact which is indeed an almost inevitable consequence of this contact. Borrowing is defined as a process that occurs in various situations of language contact and by which a language or a variety of language takes new linguistic material, such as words or phrases, from another language or another language variety, usually called the donor. The term ‘loanword’, which makes up the most frequent type of lexical borrowing, refers to the borrowing of both, the form of a word and the associated word meaning ). Haspelmath said that “loanwords often undergo changes to make them fit better into the recipient language. These changes are generally called ‘loanword adaptation’ (or loanword integration) [...]” (2009: 42). Usage-based approaches that view language change, including borrowing, as a gradual process

driven by the frequency and context of language use was considered relevant for this study. See another example below;

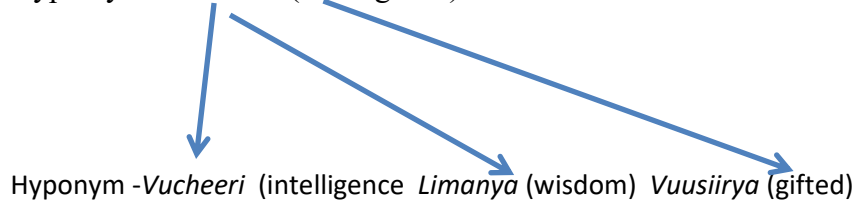
#### Example 2

Hypernym - *Shipimoo* (size)



#### Example 3

Hypernym - *Vucheeri* (intelligence)



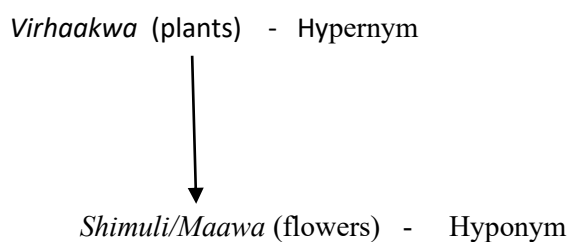
The present study also analysed Lutirichi hyponyms in form of nouns as seen in the table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 *Lutirichi* hyponyms for nouns**

<b>HYPERNYM</b>	<b>HYPONYM</b>	<b>HYPONYMY SUBTYPE</b>
<i>Tsinguuvu</i> (clothes)	- <i>lishaati</i> (shirt)	None
	- <i>iroong'u</i> (trousers)	None
	- <i>shinyaasa</i> (shorts)	None
	- <i>ikoofya</i> (hat)	None
	- <i>shikaamata</i> (braziers)	None
	- <i>isweeta</i> (sweater)	None
<i>Inyuungu</i> (pot)	- <i>shipaanji</i> (A pot used for storing water for drinking)	None
	- <i>isaayika</i> ((A pot used for fetching water)	None
	- <i>yaakhaluka</i> (A pot used for preparing ugali)	None
	- <i>iyaambova</i> (A pot used for cooking meat)	None
	- <i>iyaamachere</i> (A pot used for cooking mashroom)	None
	- <i>illeemo</i> (A very big pot)	None
<i>Misaala</i> (trees)	- <i>isikha</i> (A pot used for brewing or ripening bananas)	None
	- <i>Mutukuyo</i> (Elgon teak)	None
	- <i>Mutsulia</i> (Nandi flame)	None
	- <i>Mutimbau/ Musasa</i> (Eucalyptus)	None
	- <i>Murhembe</i> (Red hot poker)	None
	- <i>Ikambi</i> (Wattle)	None
	- <i>Mutarakwa</i> (Cyprus)	None
	- <i>Lihuntsu</i> (Papyrus)	None
	- <i>Munyenya</i> (Acacia)	None
	- <i>Ikawa</i> (Coffee)	None
	- <i>Lichani</i> (Tea tree)	None
	- <i>Shikakha</i> (Aloe vera)	None
- <i>Inasoole/ Intsaka</i> (Bhang)	None	
- <i>Shinavutsaka/ Lukohe</i> (Black jack)	None	

The present study observed that some Lutirichi hyponyms in form of nouns had inadequate hyponyms for the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple layer. See the example below;

Example4

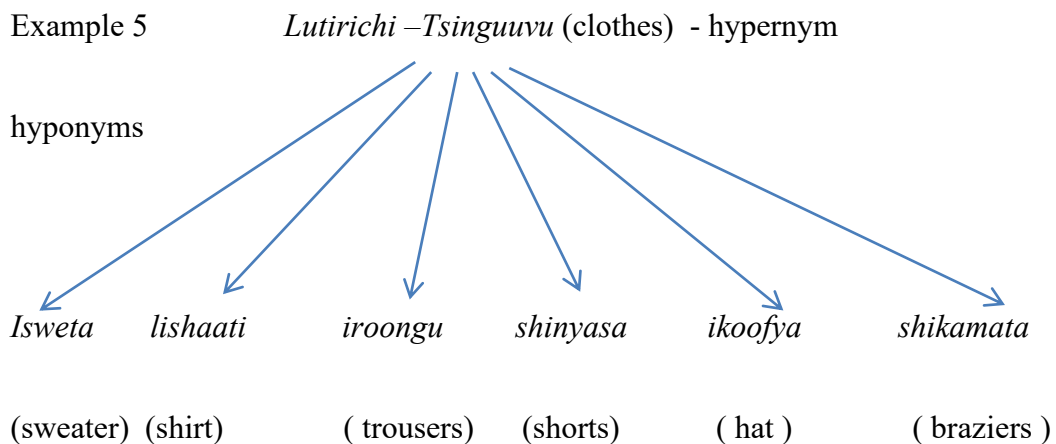


According to the data collected from the FGDs as indicated in example 4 above diagram, it was observed that if a speaker of Lutirichi was interested in a specific flower, for example when purchasing flowers for an event, then the speaker would have to borrow and coin names of the flowers of either Kiswahili or English. For example, *ndeenya shimuli sha roosi* to mean I need a rose flower or *mbee maawa ghaa haaisibiskasi* which means give me the hibiscus flowers. According to Hock (1968), languages do not exist in a vacuum. There is usually linguistic contact between speech communities. The interacting speech communities are likely to influence each other through linguistic borrowing.

The fact that languages come into contact, thus leading to lexical borrowing among other linguistic outcomes, is a social factor. Matras (2009) puts this into perspective in his view that language contact and interaction of the speech communities cause their languages to influence each other. As it was also revealed that most of the hyponyms of clothes in Lutirichi for example ; *lishaati* which means shirt, *iroong'u* which means trousers and *isweeta* which means a sweater have been borrowed and

coined from English in order to help create the hierarchical relationships in the Lutirichi language.

The study thus established that there was massive borrowing here because initially the Avatirichi did not put on clothes, instead they used to put on *lisumati*( a type of clothe that was made from skin) and was worn by only the rich and *shivambo*( a small skin that only covered the private part of the wearer). *Ikoofya* which means a hat was borrowed and coined from Kiswahili hyponym *kofia*. The Usage based theory suggests that the social and psychological factors influencing language use play a crucial role in determining which borrowed elements become integrated into the language. Therefore the present study saw it crucial to employ this theory in the study. See another example below;



Based on Katamba (1994), there is no limited number for words that can be created in a language. Borrowing seems to be the easiest way out to find a term for an unknown thing or phenomenon. Thus, it was equally observed from the key informants that Lutirichi has inadequate hyponyms for the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple layers when it comes to the verb cooking. For instance, Lutirichi has only two layers for the same hypernym unless the speaker has to borrow and coin the needed hyponyms from English for example *khudipu furaya* ( to deep fry), *khushalo furaya* ( shallow fry),

*khuspiti rosita* (spit roast), *khupoti rosita* etc. It was therefore established from the FGDs that the Avatirichi speakers did not practice this modern methods of cooking until the introduction of the methods (pan-frying, stir- frying, shallow frying, oven roasting, spit roasting, pot roasting and tandoori roasting) by the western culture.

According to Tomasello (2003), a usage based theory linguist, when a foreign word or phrase is borrowed and used frequently, it becomes more entrenched in the language, potentially leading to its integration into the language's structure. For example, the use of loanwords may be seen as raising their degrees of entrenchment in the mental representations of individual speakers, potentially leading to language change. Therefore the researcher found this theory relevant for the study.

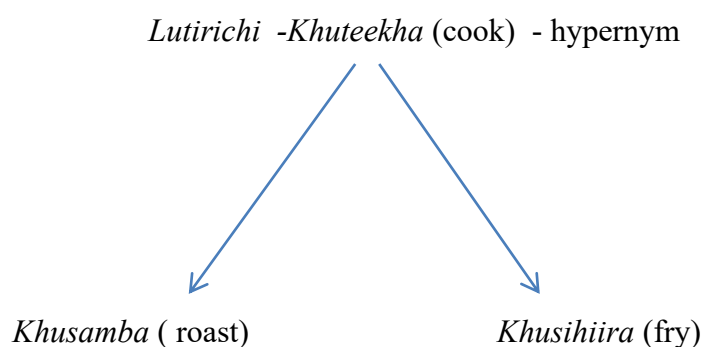
The present study further analysed Lutirichi hyponyms in form of verbs as seen in the table below:

**Table 4.3 Lutirichi hyponyms for verbs**

<b>HYPERNYM</b>	<b>HYPONYM</b>	<b>HYPONYMY SUBTYPE</b>
<i>Khuteekha</i> (Cooking)	- <i>khuviritsa</i> (boiling)	None
	- <i>khusihiira</i> (fry)	None
	- <i>khusaamba</i> (roast)	None
	<i>Khuluuga</i> (cooking ugali)	None
<i>Khucheenda</i> (walking)	- <i>Kwirukhaaka</i> (running)	None
	- <i>Kwiideya</i> (trudging)	None
	- <i>Kwiinyola</i> (sauntering)	None
	- <i>Khuyuuga</i> (dashing)	None
	- <i>Khuhuyahuya</i> (roaming)	None
	- <i>Khusweererekha</i> (slide)	None
	- <i>khuchenderera</i> (visit)	None
<i>Khumoloma</i> (speaking/ talking)	- <i>Shindachereva</i> (hesitate)	None
	- <i>khumoonya</i> (whisper)	None
	- <i>khung'ung'una</i> (mumble)	None
	- <i>khung'alitsa</i> (chat)	None
	- <i>khuhiiva</i> (shout)	None
<i>Khuloola</i> (seeing)	- <i>khuheensa</i> (look)	None
	- <i>khutoovana</i> (stare)	None
	- <i>khutsenjeera</i> (gaze)	none

The present study established that some Lutirichi hyponyms in form of verbs had inadequate hyponyms for the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple layer. See the example below;

Example 6



From the FGDs, it was revealed that a hyponym for beans, *vukiimwi*, which means black beans, was borrowed from the Kiswahili hyponym for disease. The study attributed this to the fact that, the black beans were introduced to the speakers of Lutirichi during the same time HIV and AID was discovered in Kenya. *Matuunda* which means fruits was also borrowed from Kiswahili hyponym for fruit *matunda*. These two hyponyms were therefore borrowed in order to aid the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers which is a characteristic of hyponyms that lacks in Lutirichi hyponyms.

The findings of this study established that Lutirichi has borrowed some hyponyms from English and Kiswahili in order to provide for inadequate hyponyms in the formation of hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers which is a major characteristic of hyponymy Crystal (2003). It was also observed that hyponyms in Lutirichi are not restricted to nouns. Thus Lutirichi hyponyms are also found in other parts of speech for example; *khuloola* which means seeing is a verb, *shipimoo* which means size and *likoondo* which means colour are adjectives Finnegan (2008).

#### **4.2 Lexical Semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms**

The second objective of the study was to examine contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi Hyponyms. Based on Palmer (1981), the words that we use do not in most cases mean what they might obviously be thought to mean, that there is some other meaning besides the literal meaning of words. Thomas (1995) seems to echo Palmer's sentiments by pointing out the various levels of meaning. She identifies the first level as that of abstract meaning; she says that we move from abstract meaning to contextual meaning (also called utterance meaning) by assigning sense and reference to a word, phrase or sentence. The third level of meaning is reached when we consider the speaker's intention. When people are engaged in conversations, they intuitively look for contextual sense (the sense in which the speaker is using the word), part of the process of determining what speakers mean involves assigning sense to the words. In general, Thomas asserts that, the process is very straightforward, but problems occur especially in the use of Sense Relations. Thus, it was equally observed that Lutirichi hyponyms vary semantically as analysed below.

**Table 4.4 Lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms**

<b>HYPONYM</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>	<b>MEANING VARIATION</b>	<b>SENTENCE UTTERANCES</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>lipwooni</i>	Potato	Bribe	<i>Shuuma uhani lipwooni kwanyoore mhinsi.</i>	Shuma has bribed in order to get a job.
<i>Vuree</i>	Millet	Alcohol	<i>Khuhuuli vuree vuduukhu vwosi</i>	We drank alcohol the whole night.
<i>Shimuli</i>	Flower	Vanity	<i>Tsirupya ni shimuli vutswa.</i>	Money is vanity.
<i>Shing'ang'a</i>	Fox	Merciless	<i>Oyoo ni shing'ang'a uheense vulaahi.</i>	He is merciless, be careful.
<i>Khuteekha</i>	cooking	To get married	<i>Vuleche wa teekha Kakamega</i>	Vuleche got married in Kakamega.
<i>Shighaari</i>	Big	Leadership/promotion	<i>Unyori vughaari</i>	He has become a leader./He has been promoted.
<i>Imwamu</i>	Black	Evil heart	<i>Urhi nu mwoyo mumwamu.</i>	You have an evil heart.
<i>Isimbwa</i>	Dog	bad behavior	<i>Mwikhula wewe ni isimbwa</i>	His son is behaving badly.
<i>Linani</i>	cheetah	Giant/very big	<i>Yagwaa linani.</i>	He has grown very big./ He is a giant.
<i>Musaala</i>	Tree	Sly person	<i>Anusu ni musaala murherere</i>	Anusu is sly.
<i>Khulola</i>	See	foolish	<i>Akhuloli musiro</i>	He taking you for a fool.
<i>Khuchenda</i>	Walking	Fail to succeed	<i>Lero nda khuchenda vutswa.</i>	Today I did not succeed.
<i>Inasore</i>	Bhang	Stupid	<i>Akhubimii inasore.</i>	He thought you are stupid.
<i>Musaala</i>	Tree	Bhang	<i>Mwikhula wa reve ang'wetsa musaala.</i>	His son is smoking bhang.
<i>Musaala</i>	Tree	A prominent person	<i>Musaala kwa mang'ana kugwire mutirichi .</i>	A prominent person has died in Tiriki land.
<i>Khuchenda</i>	Walking	Prostitution	<i>Khang'ahi achenda lichenda.</i>	Khang'ahi is a great prostitute.

From the data investigated from the FGDs in table 4.4 above, it was observed that there is meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. *Vucheeri*, for example, is a hyponym which refers to intelligence can also be used in a different context to mean a witch. *Uyu nii mucheeri wamaala vanduu tooto*, to mean this one is a witch he has

killed so many people. The usage based theory was relevant in explaining that grammar is derivative of language, not a prerequisite, thus, the meaning of a word can be explained best basing on how the word has been used in the context it exists. Lutirichi hyponyms such as *lipwooni* (potato), *vuree* (millet), *shimuli* (flower), *shing'ang'a* (fox), *kuteekha* (cook), *shighaali* (big), *imwamu* (black), *isimbwa* (dog) and *linani* (cheetah) have different meaning when used in different contexts

The semantic field theory was also relevant in explaining how the meaning of a word can only be fully determined in terms of contrast in which it stands with other words in the field. For instance, in the examples given above, the hyponym *lipwooni* (potato) which is a noun is altered to a verb (bribe) when used in a different context. Therefore, the findings of this study are in agreement with the study and findings of Andriani, 2023 who investigated the central or core meanings of selected fruit, vegetable and flower names from the viewpoint of hypernym-hyponym relationships. The study implications were dictionary users ought to realize that some word definitions needed improving and lexicographers should pay proper attention to core meanings and hypernym-hyponym connection. However, the present study differs from Andriani's, in the manner that the present study investigated general hyponyms in Lutirichi in terms of verbs, nouns and adjectives.

### 4.3 Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing

The present study realised that some Lutirichi hyponyms that had been borrowed from the Swahili and English languages vary semantically as analysed in table 4.5 below.

**Table 4.5 Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing**

HYPONYM	THE ORIGIN OF THE BORROWED AND COINED HYPONYM	GLOSS	THE MEANING VARIATION IN A SENTENCE UTTERANCES	GLOSS
<i>Iroong'u</i>	Kiswahili – long'i	Trousers	<i>Yohana waitsuraa muiroong'u.</i>	John is up to the task.
<i>Vukiimwi</i>	Kiswahili – Ukimwi	AIDS	<i>Maaganda ghaa vukiimwi ghanurha</i>	Competent. The black beans are sweet.
<i>Isweeta</i>	English – sweater	Sweater	<i>Uyu ni mucheeri alakhuvikha isweeta</i>	He will bewitch you, he is a witch.
<i>Ikoofya</i>	Kiswahili – kofia	Hat	<i>Lusichi uvikhilwe ikoofya, kwiwirori hee.</i>	Lusichi feels proud of his new appointment.
<i>Buulu</i>	English- Blue	Blue – Colour	<i>Indaa inumii muno, ndooli gha buulu.</i>	I had a severe stomach ache, I really suffered.
<i>Matuunda</i>	Kiswahili- Matunda	Fruit	<i>Mwikhuula watukha mumatuunda.</i>	His son has become rich
<i>Maawa</i>	Kiswahili- Maua	Flowers	<i>Tsirupya ni maawa vutswa.</i>	Money is vanity.
<i>Ibomu</i>	English – bomb	Bomb	<i>Tomu amulaasi ibomu mbaka alarila</i>	Tom insulted him until he cried
<i>Ing'ombe</i>	Kiswahili – Ng'ombe	Cow	<i>Ing'ombe iyii ikhoori shiina yiishi?</i>	What has this fool done?

From table 4.5 above, the Lutirichi hyponyms *iroong'u*, *vukiimwi*, *isweeta*, *ikoofya*, *buulu*, *matuunda*, *maawa*, *ibomu* and *ing'ombe* have been borrowed and coined from English and Kiswahili as indicated above. The findings of this study established that the motive for lexical borrowing tended to highlight speaker's perceptions of gaps,

‘the need for names for certain objects and concepts with which a language community is newly faced in a changed cultural situation as stated by Weinreich (2011). However, the present study was not only interested in why Lutirichi hyponyms have been borrowed from English and Kiswahili but also how the borrowed hyponyms are used in the language.

The study thus established that there is semantic variation in the borrowed hyponyms in Lutirichi.

Consider the following examples:

#### Example 7

The hyponym *ibomu* which means bomb is a hyponym of weapons but when used in a sentence as seen above (*Tomu amulaasi ibomu mbaka alarila*) (Tom insulted him until he cried), the meaning of this hyponym changes to mean an insult and not a bomb any more. This is in agreement with Usage-based linguists who argue that the structure and organization of a speaker’s linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance and as such language is seen as a dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena (Bybee and Beckener, 2010). Here the lexeme *ibomu* (bomb) changes its meaning from a weapon to an insult according to how the lexeme has been used in a different context. See another example below:

#### Example 8

Ross 1991 argues that Linguistic borrowing is a common phenomenon in any language . According to Hock (1968), languages do not exist in a vacuum. There is usually linguistic contact between speech communities. As Treffers-Daller, 2007

posits that the interacting speech communities are likely to influence each other through linguistic borrowing. This happens when an impression is left on the affected language. This phenomenon is one aspect of language growth and change. Most linguists believe that linguistic change is a natural phenomenon often influenced by underlying social and linguistic forces as argued by Crystal, 1987. Crystal further postulates that when languages change, they do so in various aspects including phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic components. Of these, semantic change is the most common. For instance, from the FGDs it was established that *Iroong'u* (trousers), a Lutirichi hyponym, borrowed from English which is a noun changes its meaning in a different context to mean competent (an adjective) as seen in the sentence in the table above ( *Yohana waitsuraa muiroong'u* (Yohana is up to the task). This is inline with the argument of Bloomfield (1933) who observes that each word has one central meaning and other marginal or occasional meaning. However the original source language meaning can change in the process of borrowing. See another example below:

#### Example 9

Data collected from one of the FGDs revealed that the hyponym *vukiimwi* (*ukimwi*), AIDS , is used in a different context to mean a hyponym of beans as seen in the table above ( *Maaganda ghaa vukiimwi ghanurha* ) which means (The black beans are sweet.). The present study established that, the hyponym *vukiimwi* (*ukimwi*) was borrowed from kiswahili at the same time when AIDS was first discovered is the exact time when the black beans were introduced to the Lutirichi speakers. According to (Rendon, 2008), such influences involve the speaker in the target language finding a way to accommodate and fit in the prevailing state of affairs as demands the contact situation . The speakers of these languages who communicate in different situations for varied

reasons usually make a variety of choices in the manner they use their languages (Wardhaugh, 2006). Therefore, the Usage based Theory was found to be the best to explain this kind of borrowing. Usage-based linguists argue that the structure and organization of a speaker's linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance and as such language is seen as a dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena (Bybee and Beckener, 2010).

The Usage Based Theory is relevant in explaining this meaning variation in the Lutirichi hyponyms as seen above, its linguists argue that the structure and organization of a speaker's linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance, therefore the findings of this study established that the meaning of these borrowed and coined hyponyms in Lutirichi is derived from the context and not from the dictionary. This study totally agrees with Bybee and Beckener, 2010 who argue that language is seen as dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena. This semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms makes the language very interesting and unique thus a very rich field for research.

#### **4.4 The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms**

The third objective objective of the study was to account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. According to Saeed, (2003), what somebody refers to by using any word (Lutirichi hyponyms) depends on context; hence pragmatics plays a very central role in the meaning making process of any language and so does it too, in the language in question which is Lutirichi. The present study established that Lutirichi hyponyms are meaningful only in their semantic field and thus they are bound to

change their meanings from one context to another context as analysed in the examples below.

#### **4.4.1 Hyponyms for nouns:**

Example 10.

Nouwen (2011: 2) explains that entailment can be used to establish whether two sentences are semantically independent, semantically related, or semantically identical. Technically, Nouwen portrays entailment as sentence S entails sentence S' if and only if S is true too. The present study agrees with Nouwen's explanation on entailment. *Lishaati* (shirt) entails *tsinguuvu* (clothes). This is because if you have a shirt then it means that you have clothes. Tomasello (2003), posits that language structure arises from repeated language use, meaning "structure emerges from use," and that people learn language by building up a mental inventory of specific linguistic constructions based on their experiences with language in context, The present study applied the usage based theory. See another example below:

Example 11

Entailment is addressed logically since it is the foundation for all other logical relationships. These relationships consist of both "equivalence and contradiction". Therefore, the premise underlying "Molly is a cat" implies the premise underlying "Molly is an animal." As a consequence, one cannot simultaneously assert that "Molly is a cat and deny that it is an animal"; doing so would constitute a contradiction. Therefore, entailments are a crucial component of what is spoken, and they cannot be cancelled or separated (Bertuccelli, 1997:141). Likewise, Luterichi hyponym *Linyolonyolo* (wandering jew) entails *tsinguutsa* (vegetables) which entails

virhaakwa (plants) as it was established from the FGDs.. This means that wandering jew is a type of vegetable which is a plant. The study was informed by the usage based theory that argues that meaning in use represents an approach to the functional or semantic dimension of linguistic communication Wittgenstein (1953)

#### **4.4.2 Hyponyms for adjectives**

##### Example 12

Entailment is a relation between two propositions where the truth of the second statement is necessarily entailed by the truth of the first. This term is taken from logic and now it can be considered as a part of semantics (Crystal, 2008). Lutirichi hyponyms process this characteristic for example *Limaanya* (wisdom) entails *vucheeri* (intelligence), This means if you are wise then it means you are intelligent. This study was supported by the usage based theory that argues that s a linguistic framework that proposes language structure arises primarily from repeated usage and experience, meaning the patterns and regularities we observe in language are a direct result of how people actually use it in communication Bybee, 2010. See another example below:

##### Example 13

According to Zule (1996) hyponymy is a word that shows relationships between a general and a specific meaning of a word. This means that the meaning of a word is included in the meaning of another word. In Lutirichi the hyponym *Imuuchi* (red) entails *likoondo* (colour). This means that when we talk about red then we are referring to a colour. This means that some Lutirichi hyponyms like *imuuchi* (red) agree with Zule's definition of a hyponyms. The present study found the usage based theory to be beneficial to the study

#### **4.4.3 Hyponyms for verbs**

##### Example 14

Finnegan (2008) argues that in spite of the fact that hyponyms can be found in dialects, ideas or words in hyponym relationship shift from one language to the next language. The present study through the FGDs came across a number of hyponyms in Lutirichi language for example *khutsenjeera* (gaze) is a hyponym of *khuloola* (seeing). This means that when we talk about gazing we entail seeing. This study employed usage based theory basing on Wittgenstein (1953) who argued that meaning in use represents an approach to the functional or semantic dimension of linguistic communication. The intention was to combat the idea that meanings are things and instead focus on how people use linguistic conventions to achieve social ends.

Therefore, the truth of one hyponym is the truth of the second hyponym which is one of the major characteristics of hyponyms. However, this study observed a unique characteristic in Lutirichi hyponyms which is found in table 4.2 and table 4.3.

Consider the following examples:

#### **4.4.4 Hyponyms for nouns**

##### Example 15

Frank & Kathryn (1994) posit that hyponymy is sometimes referred to as inclusion. The superordinate is the included word and the hyponym is the including one. This is because when people utter statements, they often convey entailment whether intentionally or unintentionally because the basis of semantic description is the notion of entailment. However, from the data collected through the FGDs there was a contradiction established in some Lutirichi hyponyms whereby the notion of

entailment is lost during usage for example; It is hard to relate the hyponym *lipwooni* (potato) and bribe, the two are different in the sense that a potato is a plant while bribe is a vice but Lutirichi speakers use *lipwooni* (potato) in some contexts to mean bribe. This was the reason to why the present study found the usage based theory an ideal for the study. Usage-based linguists argue that the structure and organization of a speaker's linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance and as such language is seen as a dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena (Bybee and Beckener, 2010) See another example below:

#### Example 16

We cannot say that competency entails *iroong'u* (trousers). Trousers are clothes but can be used in Lutirichi to refer to competency. This was the reason why the present study saw it relevant to apply the Semantic Field Theory in the study. According to Wu (1988), he summarized Trier's semantic field theory as follows: Firstly, the vocabulary in a language system is semantically related and builds up a complete lexical system. He views the system as unsteady and changing constantly. Secondly, he posits that since the vocabulary of a language is semantically related, we are not supposed to study the semantic change of individual words in isolation, but to study vocabulary as an integrated system. Wu finally observes that since lexemes are interrelated in sense, we can only determine the connotation of a word by analyzing and comparing its semantic relationship with other words. A word is meaningful only in its own semantic field. The present study established that Lutirichi hyponyms discussed in objective three are meaningful only in their semantic field and thus they are bound to change their meanings from one context to another context.

#### 4.4.5 Hyponyms for adjectives

##### Example 17

According to Cruse (2000), entailment has a context-bound relation with regard to identity and inclusion relations. He further asserts that entailment occurs freely with propositional synonymy. Cruse argues that although the two lexical items in near synonymy are close in meanings or related, entailment relation cannot be attained. He observes that entailment in hyponymy is a unilateral relation. i.e., the meaning of one hyponym entails the meaning of the superordinate, but the meaning of the superordinate does not entail the meaning of each hyponym. However, during the FGDs it was established that some Lutirichi hyponyms lost this characteristic of entailment when used in different contexts. For instance, *Vucheeri*, is a hyponym which refers to intelligence in Lutirichi language but it can also be used in a different context to mean a witch. For example; *Uyu nii mucheeri, wamaala vanduu tooto*, (This one is a witch, he has killed so many people.) The usage based theory was relevant in explaining that grammar is derivative of language, not a prerequisite, thus, the meaning of a word can be explained best basing on how the word has been used in the context it exists Bybee and Beckener, 2010.

#### 4.4.6 Hyponym for verbs

##### Example 18

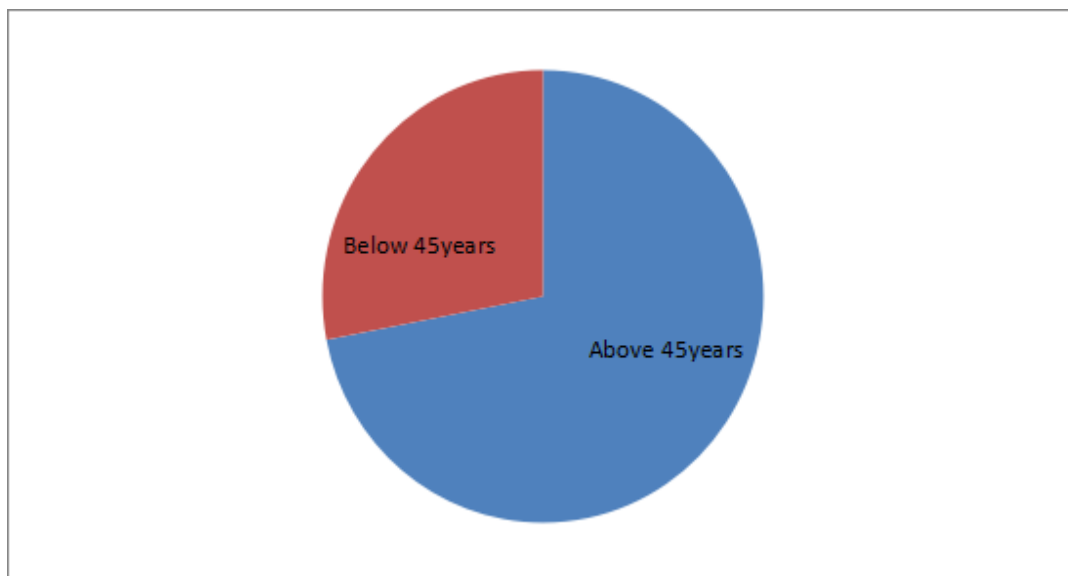
Miao (2020) presented the importance of lexical/sense relations in learning vocabulary. During the FGDs the researcher deduced that meanings of vocabulary are largely determined by the lexical sense relations, which makes the understanding and analysis of lexical sense relations helpful in the mastery of meanings of words. However, some Lutirichi hyponyms are against Miao, for instance, *khuteekha*

(cooking) a hyponym in Lutirichi Language when used in a different context changes its meaning to getting married. For example, *Vuleche wa teekha Kakamega* (Vuleche got married in Kakamega.) Therefore, the present study found the usage based theory apt for the study. Usage-based linguists argue that the structure and organization of a speaker's linguistic knowledge is the product of language use or performance and as such language is seen as a dynamic system that are constantly restructured and reorganized under the pressure of multiple cognitive phenomena (Bybee and Beckener, 2010).

Therefore, the findings of the present study established that the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms is lost during the usage of the hyponyms in the language. This is because the dictionary meanings of some Lutirichi hyponyms change their meanings when used in different contexts as discussed above. The study observed that entailment in hyponyms was utilized by the young generation and middle aged people thus those below 45 years old while those above 46 years mostly used the hyponyms in table 4.2 and 4.3 thus applying the semantic variations.

#### **4.4.7 The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms due to age**

According to Labov (1994, 107) that individuals tend to preserve their speech patterns as they move through their lifespan. The present study established that the Lutirichi speakers use their language differently according to their age. For example, the older generation (46 to 75 years) use metaphors in their communication.



**Figure 4.1** The influence of contextual semantic variations on the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms due to age

It was therefore evident that these semantic variations hindered communicability among different generations of Lutirichi speakers. The younger generation found it difficult to understand the old generation who were found to be using these variations regularly in their conversations.

#### **4.5 Chapter Summary**

This chapter presented, analysed and discussed the data obtained for the study. The details covered what each objective aimed to achieve. The data was analysed descriptively using content analysis and the findings presented in text form, tables, tree diagrams and pie charts. The study generated deductions from what was observed and drew conclusions as per every objective. The next chapter gives a summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations for the study.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.0 Introduction

The chapter contains a detailed summary of the findings based on the objectives that guided the research, the conclusions drawn from the findings and the recommendations and suggestions for areas of further research. The aim of this study was to categorize and describe the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms, examine contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms and to account for the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms.

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

In objective 1 the study categorized the hierarchical relationships of Lutirichi hyponyms. Lutirichi hyponyms are categorized into different parts of speech such as nouns, verbs and adjectives just like in other languages. The examples are as follows:

- Lutirichi nouns include: 'iroong'u'(trousers), 'isweeta'(sweater), 'ikoofya'(kofia), 'matuunda'(fruits), 'shimuli/maawa'(flowers), 'ibomu'(bomb),

'ing'ombe'(cow), 'lipwooni'(potato), 'linani'(cheetah), 'isimbwa'(dog), 'shing'ang'a'(f ox), 'shimuka'(guard) and 'lusaambwa'(flag).

- The Lutirichi verbs include: 'Khuteekha'(cooking), 'khusaamba'(roast), 'khuheensa'(watch), 'khutoola'(seeing), 'khuviriitsa'(boiling), 'khukhotyola'(envy), 'khusihiira'(frying), 'khutsenjeera'(stare), and 'khutoovana'(gaze).

-The Lutirichi adjectives include: 'buulu'(blue), 'imwamu'(black), 'shigaari'(big), 'shitiititi'(small), 'vucheeri'(intelligence), 'rhimaanya'(wisdom) and 'uusiirya'(gifted).

The Lutirichi hyponyms are made of fewer or no hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers. which leads to borrowing and coining of hyponyms from the two

languages in order to fill this gap. These borrowing and coining is to highlight the speakers' perceptions of gaps, such as the need for certain objects and concepts with which the Lutirichi language is newly faced in a changed cultural situation. The study revealed massive borrowing of the hyponyms of clothes from English such as 'iroong'u'(trousers), 'rhishaati'(shirt), 'isweeta'(sweater), 'isikaati'(shirt) and 'ikoofya'(kofia) from Kiswahili. The study established that this borrowing was because the Avatirichi people culturally did not have clothes but instead had 'risumati'(skin) and 'shivambo'( a small piece of skin for hiding private parts only).

In objective 2 the study examined contextual meaning variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. The study established two types of semantic variations in Lutirichi language; the semantic variation of Lutirichi hyponyms and semantic variation due to borrowing of Lutirichi hyponyms. The study revealed that there is meaning variation in Lutirichi hyponyms whereby the traditional meaning of a hyponym is altered from one context to another context during usage. For example the hyponym 'lipwooni'(a potato) when used in a different context, the hyponym's meaning will change to mean bribe, 'Nuukhahani lipwooni unyoola mihinsi taawe.'(You won't get a job without bribing.) From the example given above, the hyponym has even changed the parts of speech from a noun (potato) to a verb (bribe). Another example is the use of the hyponym 'khutoola'(pick) which also changes its meaning when used in a different context; ' Yakhumutoola tsa khurhura khumulughu khutukha khuvweeni.'(He really abused him), here the verb pick has changed to the verb abuse in another context. The study also revealed that these variations were mostly used by the older generation among the avatirichi people thus above 45 years of age. The study further established that these semantic variations hinder communicability among the different generations of Lutirichi speakers thus between the young and old

people. In addition, the study attributed this to the fact that idioms are as a result of lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms.

Further on objective 2, the study investigated semantic variation due to borrowing of Lutirichi hyponyms. The study observed that some of the hyponyms that are borrowed and coined also alter their meaning in different contexts. One of the many examples that was given, was how the hyponym '*ing'ombe*' (cow) is used in different contexts to produce different meanings for example '*urhii ing'ombe yeene yumushiira.*'(You are very foolish.). Here the borrowed hyponym "*ing'ombe*" from Kiswahili '*ng'ombe*' which is a noun has been used in a different context to mean very foolish as an adjective.

In objective 3, the study gave the account on how contextual semantic variations influenced the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms. It was established that due to contextual semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms, the role of entailment in hyponymy which is a major characteristic of inclusion in hyponyms is lost. From the example given above, *ing'ombe* (cow) entails an animal. However, when a cow is used in a different context to mean 'very foolish' then the role of entailment is completely lost. Further, it described how language in use influence the role of entailment in Lutirichi hyponyms.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The present study investigated lexical semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms. From the analysis, the following conclusions are made: Firstly, Lutirichi hyponyms are categorized into different parts of speech such as nouns, verbs and adjectives just like in other languages. However, the Lutirichi hyponyms are made of fewer or no hierarchical relationships and multiple of layers as compared to other languages

especially English and Kiswahili which leads to borrowing of hyponyms from the two languages in order to fill this gap. These borrowing is to highlight the speakers' perceptions of gaps, such as the need for certain objects and concepts with which the Lutirichi language is newly faced in a changed cultural situation.

Secondly, the study established two reasons of semantic variations in Lutirichi language; the semantic variation of Lutirichi hyponyms and semantic variation due to borrowing of Lutirichi hyponyms. The study revealed that there is meaning variation in Lutirichi hyponyms whereby the traditional meaning of a hyponym is altered from one context to another context during usage. The study established that these variations were mostly used by the older generation among the Avatirichi people thus above 45 years of age. The study further established that these semantic variations hinder communicability among the different generations of Lutirichi speakers thus between the young and old people. The study observed that some of the hyponyms that are borrowed also alter their meaning in different contexts.

Finally, It was established that due to semantic variations in Lutirichi hyponyms, the role of entailment in hyponymy which is a major characteristic of inclusion in hyponyms is lost.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The recommendations of this study is that further research should be carried out on phonology and morphology to add literature materials on Lutirichi language. Secondly, Lutirichi language should be taught as an indigenous language in catchment areas in order to bridge the gap created between the young and old generations due to semantic variation.

## REFERENCES

- Akeng'o, M.(2015).*Semantic Analysis of Lunyore Nouns*. Kenyatta University Library Kenya
- Andriani,E and Bram, B.(2023). *Central Meanings and Hypernym- Hyponym Hierarchy of Word Definitions in Online Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*. Sanata Drama University. Yogyakarta Indonesia.
- Anjiji,C.(2008) *Noun Derivation ion Tiriki*. Nairobi University of Nairobi.
- Aunga. S. (2011). *The nature of homonymous and polysemous sense relations in Ekegusii*. Unpublished M.A Thesis Kenyatta University.
- Barasa, D. (2017) *Ateso grammar. A descriptive account of an Eastern Nilotic language*. (LINCOM Studies-in African Linguistics 94). Munchen: LINCOM.ISNB.
- Bertuccelli Papi, M., 1997. *Implicitness*. In: *J. Verschueren and J. Ostman, ed., Key Notions for Pragmatics*. Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp.139-162
- Blank A. (1995). "Why Do New Meanings Occur? A Cognitive Typology of the Motivations for Semantic Change" in Blank/ Koch (1999) (Eds) *Historical Semantics and Cognition*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyer
- Blount,B.(1969). Acquisition of language by Luo children:Doctoral Dissertation. University Of California.
- Bloomfield L. (1933). *Language*. University of Chicago Press.
- Boran, G. (2018). *Semantic fields and EFL/ESL teaching*. *International Online Journal of Education and Teaching (IOJET)*, 5(2), 391-399.
- Bruce, M. R and Diane, P. (2016) *A concise introduction to linguistics*, (4th Ed) q Routledge.
- Burton, N. (2002). *Pragmatics*, Hondmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bussmann,H .(1996). *Routledge dictionary of language and linguistics*. Routledge, London.
- Bybee, J. (2010).*Language, Cognitionand Usage- CambridgeUK: Cambridge University*.
- Bybee and Eddingt .(2006). *A Usage-based Approach to Spanish |Verbs of 'Becoming'* Faculty Publications.
- Bybee, J. (1985). *Morphology: A study on the relation between meaning and form*. Amsterdam; JohnBenjamins.

- Campbell, J.(2013).*Human Resources for Health and Universal Health Coverage. Fostering Equity and Effective Coverage*. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 91,853-863
- Cann, R. (2011). *Sense relations and semantics: An International Handbook of Natural language and meaning*
- Cann, R. (2011).*Sense relations, semantics, an international handbook of natural language and meaning*
- Caraballo. (1999). *Automatic construction of a hypernym-labeled noun hierarchy from text*. In Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Carstensen, B. (1992). *Anglicisms in German: the description of the loan-process*. In Hg, G. Meder & A. Dorner, (eds.), *Lexikographische Beiträge zum Essener Linguistischen Kolloquium*. [Lexicographical reports ap the Essen Linguistics Colloquium] (pp. 87- 103). Tübingen: Niemeyer
- Chambers, J.K./Trudgill, P. (1998) *Dialectology*, 1st edition, Cambridge
- Conklin, H.C. (1962). '*Lexicographical treatment of folk taxonomies*' in H. Householder and S. Saporta (eds.). *Problems in Lexicography*. Bloomington: Mouton. 119—141
- Cresswell, J. (2012).*Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among the five traditions* (3rd Ed)California: Thousand oaks.
- Croft, W. (2002). *Explaining Language Change: An Evolutionary Approach*. London: Longman
- Cruse,D.A.(2000).*Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. New York :Oxford University Press.
- Cruse ,D.A .(2001). *Lexical Semantics*. International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Cruse, D.A (1986)*Lexical semantics*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English language* (2nd Ed) Cambridge: Cambridge University.
- Crystal, D .(1998). *English as a Global Language*. Cantoed. Cambridge, England New York, Cambridge University Press
- Crystal, D.(1997). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* (second edition). Cambridge University.
- Crystal, D. (1992). *An encyclopaedic dictionary of language and languages*. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher

- Crystal, D. (1987). *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Languages*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dagan, I.; Glickman, O. & Magnini, B. (2006). *The Pascal recognizing textual entailment challenge*.
- Diesel, H. (2019). *The grammar network: How linguistic structure is shaped by language us*. CambridgeUK: Cambridge University.
- Ecco, U.(1986). *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*. Indiana University Press
- Einar, H. (1950). *The analysis of linguistic borrowing*. Language 26:210–231
- Falk (1973). *Linguistics and Language: A Survey of Basic Concepts and Applications*, Waltham, MA: Xerox College Publishing.
- Fillip, H. (2008). Events and maximalization. In *Theoretical and cross linguistics approaches to the semantics of Press, 1997: 99-100* aspects, ed. Susan Rothstein, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2008 :1.
- Finnegan R.(2008). *Oral Literature in Africa*. Oxford: Clarendon Press/Cambridge: Open Books Publishers
- Frank, P. and Kathryn, R. (1994). *Language: Its structure and use*. Fort Worth; Harcourt Bruce.
- Gitonga, C.M. (2018). *Hyponymy in Gikuyu church sermons in Nyeri County, Kenya*.
- Goatl, A. (2012). *Meaning and Humour*. Lingan university, Hong Kong, Cambridge University press.
- Goldberg, A and Giudice, D. (2005) *Hierarchical structure in a self-created communication system: Building nominal constituents in homesign*.
- Goldberg, A. E. (2006). *Constructions at work: The nature of generalization in language*. Oxford: Oxford University.
- Grabmann, J. (2015). "German loanwords in English: An assessment of Germanisms such as "Sauerkraut, Pretzel and Strudel". University of Rostock: Munich, Term Paper, 2015. Published"
- Greeraerts, D. (2015). *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*.
- Geeraerts, D. (1985). "Les données stéréotypiques, prototypiques et encyclopédiques dans le dictionnaire". *Cahiers de Lexicologie*^: 27-43.
- Greeraerts, D. (1987). "Types of semantic information in dictionaries". In Robert Ilson (ed.), *A spectrum of lexicography 1-10*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

- Geeraerts, D. (1989a). "Principles of monolingual lexicography". In Franz Josef Hausmann (ed.), *Wörterbücher. Ein internationales Handbuch zur Lexikographie 1*: 287-296. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Geeraerts, D. (1990). "The lexicographical treatment of prototypical polysemy". In Savas L. Tsohatzidis (ed.), *Meanings and Prototypes. Studies in Linguistic Categorization 195-210*. London and New York: Routledge. G
- Griffiths, P. (2006). *An introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh University.
- Hall-Lew, L. (2002). *Beyond the 2nd generation: English use among Chinese Americans in the San Francisco Bay area*. The University of Arizona, 2002. 39, 2002.
- Haspelmath, M. (2003). *The geometry of grammatical meaning: Semantic maps and cross-linguistic comparison*. The new psychology of language 2, 2003. 1146, 2003.
- Haspelmath, M. (2008). *Loan word Typology: Steps Towards a Systematic Cross-Linguistic study of Lexical Borrowability*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Haspelmath, M. (2009). *Lexical borrowing: Concepts and issues*. In M. Haspelmath & U. Tadmor (eds). *Loanwords in the World's Languages: A Comparative Handbook*. (pp. 35-54). Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton
- Haspelmath, M. (2009). "Lexical borrowing: concepts and issues". Research Gate: published on December 2009. DOI: 10.1515/9783110218442. Retrieved on 6th, October, 2020 from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/279973916\\_Lexical\\_borrowing\\_concepts\\_and\\_issues](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/279973916_Lexical_borrowing_concepts_and_issues)
- Haugen, E. (1950). *The analysis of linguistic borrowing*. *Language*. 26, 210-231 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/410058>
- Haugen, E. (1953). *The Norwegian Language in America: A study of Bilingual Behaviour*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania.
- Hearst, M. (1992). *Automatic Acquisition of Hyponyms from Large Text Corpora*. In COLING 1992 Volume 2: The 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational Linguistics.
- Hocini, A. (2011). *A sociolinguistic study of Ghazaouet speech community: Phonological, morphological and lexical variation*. Masters Thesis, University of Tlemcen: Algeria
- Hock, H., & Brian, D. (2009). *Language History, Language Change, and Language Relationship: An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics* (2nd ed.). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter
- Hock, H. (1968). *Principles of Historical Linguistics* Berlin, Mouton de Gruyter..

- Hoshan, A. (2020). *A Semantic Analysis of Hyponymy in Mansfield's The Little*
- IASC.(2021). Gender Accountability Framework Report
- Israel, M. (2014). *Semantics: How language makes sense. How language works: An introduction to language and linguistics*. Ed by Carol Genetti. Cambridge University.
- Jeffries .(2006). *Discovering Language: The Structure of Modern English* Palgrave Macmillan
- Jumaeva,N.K (2024). Exploring Hyponyms: Taxonomic Structure and Semantic Features.
- Katamba, F.(1994). *English Words:Structure, History, Usage*. published in 1994
- Kebeya, H. (1997). *An intra-dialectal analysis of a dialect of Luhya;a backwash effect on Language Teachings and learning*. Unpublished report
- Kibui, A. W., Athimoolam, L. & Mwaniki, B. (2014). *Gender Equity in Education Development in Kenya and the New. Constitution for Vision 2030*. International Journal of Scientific Research & Innovative Technology, 1(2), 21-34
- Kitzinger, J. (1994), 'The methodology of focus groups: The importance of interaction between research participants', *Sociology of Health*, 16 (1), 103–21.—. (1995). 'Introducing focus groups', *British Medical Journal*, 311, 299–302
- Koh. E & Owen W.(2000).Descriptive Research and Qualitative Descriptive Research, in *Introduction on to Nutrition and Health Research*. Berlin: Springer
- Kombo, D. K.& Tromp, D. L. A. (2006). *Proposal and thesis writing. An introduction. Nairobi*. PaulinesPublications Africa.
- Kreidler, C. (1998).*Introducing English Semantics Semantics*. London: Routledge.
- Krorger, P.(2018). *Analyzing meaning: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. University of Hawai'i Press.
- Labov, W. (1994) *Principles of Linguistic Change*. Volume 1: Internal Factors, Oxford
- Langacker,R.W.(1987).*Foundations of cognitive grammar. Theoretical prerequisite*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University.
- Lehrer,A.(1985). *English Classifier Constructions*: University of Arizona.USA.
- Lehrer, A. (1974). *Semantic Field and Lexical Structure*, London: North-Holland Publishing Company.

- Lenci, A. & Benotto, G. (2012). *Identifying hypernyms in distributional semantic spaces, in proceedings of the 1st joint conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics.*
- Lewis, M. (2021). *The Premonition. A Pandemic Story.*
- Lin, D. T. A. & Pandian, A. & Jaganathan, P. (2017). *Facilitating learner autonomy: Reading and effective dictionary use for lexical development. The Reading Matrix: An International Online Journal* 17(2). 40-51
- Mamah, J. (2020). *Hyponyms of insect in Ovoko Lect.* Journal of Language Teaching and Research.
- Maobe, A. (2021). *An analysis of the phonological structure of homograph sets in Ekegusii.* Masinde Muliro University
- Marlo, M. (2011). *Reversal and Predictability in Luhya Tone.* Paper presented at the Annual Conference on African Linguistics 38, University of Georgia, April 1-20
- Mathiot, M. 1979. 'Folk-definitions as a tool for the analysis of lexical meaning' in M. Mathiot (ed.). *Ethnolinguistics.* The Hague: Mouton. 121—26
- Matras, Y. (2009). *Language contact;* Cambridge University Press, xvi + 366 pp.
- Matseshe, J. (2020). *A Morpho-Phonemic Analysis of Lukabarás Verbal Nominals.* *Journal of English and Literature* 25
- Medwell, J.; Wray, D.; Minns, H.; Griffiths, V. & Coates, E. (2014). *Primary English: Teaching Theory and Practice* (7<sup>th</sup>, Ed.). Los Angeles: Sage [5]
- Mei, J, Yiming, Z., Yunqi, G. & Hongxiang, Y. (1987). *Semantic Field and Semantic System.* *Foreign Languages*, 49, 18-23
- Meyerhoff, M. (2006). *Introducing Sociolinguistics.* London & New York: Routledge. [Introductory text for undergraduates. Contains numerous exercises for readers and expands on connections between sociolinguistics, other branches of linguistics and other social sciences.]
- Miao, C., 2020. *Lexical Sense Relations and Their Application in Vocabulary Instruction.* *Journal of Arts and Commerce*, 9(6), pp.32- 38.
- Michael, I. (2014). *Semantics: How language makes sense. How language work: An Introduction to language and Linguistics.* Ed by Carol Genetti. Cambridge University
- Miller, R. (1994). *Thirty Years of Language Dependence*
- Mudogo, B. A. (2017). *Word level strategies used to attain functional Lukabarás equivalence in the translation of Mulembe FM Luhya newscasts,* Maseno University.

- Mugenda, O. & Mugenda, A. (2003). *Research methods : Quantitative and qualitative approaches*. Nairobi: Acts Press.
- Mugenda, O. & Mugenda, A. (1999). *Research Methods: quantitative and qualitative approaches Nairobi*: Acts Press.
- Muhati, L.E. (2015). *A morphosyntactic analysis of a regional variety of Kiswahili spoken in Kakamega county: A variationist sociolinguistic approach*. Unpublished Thesis: Kenyatta University Nairobi Kenya
- Munyaya, E. J. (2017). *Sense relations and lexical pragmatic processes in linguistic semantics: A description of the Kigiryama system of meaning*. Pwani University.
- Moravcsik, E. (1978). *Reduplicative constructions*. In Greenberg et al. (eds.), volume III, 297–334.
- Myers-Scotton, Carol. 2002. *Contact linguistics: Bilingual encounters and grammatical outcome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nagy, N and Meyerhoff, M. (2008). *Social lives in languages – sociolinguistics and multilingual speech communities*
- Nosofsky, R. (1988). Exemplar-based accounts of relations between classification, recognition, and typicality. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 14(4) , 700-708
- Nordquist, R. (2017). "Semantic Field Definition." ThoughtCo, Apr. 25, 2017
- Nouwen, R. (2011 :2). *Vagueness in Communication: International Workshop, VIC2009*, held as part of ESSLLI, Bordeaux, France.
- Nyatuka, B. O. (2014). Kenya: *An Overview*. In Wolhuter, C. C (Ed.). *Education in East and Central Africa (Pp. 273-298)*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.
- Omar, A. & Alotaibi, M. (2017). Geographic location and linguistic diversity: The use of intensifiers in Egyptian and Saudi Arabic. *International Journal of English Linguistics* 7(4). 220-229. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ijel.v7n4p220>
- Palmer, F. R. (1981). *Semantics Cambridge low priced editions* ; Edition, 2, illustrated, reprint ; Publisher, Cambridge University Press, 1981 ; ISBN
- Patrick, G. (2006). *An introduction to English semantics and pragmatics*. Edinburgh University.
- Palinkasevic, R. (2017). *Research in pedagogy, research article*.
- Parker, F. and Riley, K. (1994). *Linguistics for non-linguistics*. Allyn and Bacon
- Rambaud, M.G. (2012). *Basic Semantics*. UNED, 2012.

- Rendon, J.G. (2008). *Typological and social constraints on language contact ; Amerindian languages in contact with Spanish*. Amsterdam: LOT
- Redouane,R.(2001). The use of Modern Standard Arabic word formation processes by English-speaking and French-speaking adult L2 learners and native speakers
- Richard,H .(2019). *Invitation to linguistics*: ISBN O-631-14176-6.
- Riley, J. (2006) *Language and Literacy (3-7)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Riloff. E. and Shepherd. J (1997). *A corpus-based approach for building semantic lexicons*. In Proceedings of the Second Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 197–132
- Roark.B. and Charniak. E.( 1998). *Noun-phrase co-occurrence statistics for semi-automatic semantic lexicon construction*. In Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, pages 1110–1116
- Ross, M. (1991). Refining Guy’s Sociolinguistic Types of Language Change. *Diachronica* 8: 1: 119 – 129.
- Rowe, B. M. and Diane, P. (2016). *A concise introduction to linguistics*, (4th Ed) Routledge.
- Saeed, J. I. (2003) *Semantics*: Publisher : Wiley-Blackwell; 2nd edition
- Sanderson. M. and Croft. B W.(1999). *Deriving structure from text*. In Proceedings of the 22nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, pages 206–213
- Sangale, S. (2005). *Tiriki community traditions customs and Ingolole the Community totem*. Nairobi, Kenya
- Sasala, J.M. (2020). A Morpho-phonemic analysis of Lukabarar verbal nominals. *Journal of English language and Literature*, 14 (2).
- Septina, S. O. (2022). *A Semantic Analysis of Lexical Relations in English Textbook Grade X By KEMENDIKUD RI*.
- Siompu. A.G.(2021). *Hyponym analysis used on the New York Times*. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
- Stewart, D. W. and Shamdasani, P. N. (1990). *Focus groups: Theory and practice*. London: Sage
- Sylvester, L. et al. (2020). *An analysis of French Borrowings at the hypernymic and hyponymic levels of middle English*. Lexis

- Taylor, J. R. (1989), *Linguistic Categorization. Prototypes i n Linguistic Theory*, Oxford: Clarendon.
- Thomas, J.(1995). *Meaning in interaction: An introduction to pragmatics*: London: Longman, 1995. 224 pp. £12.00 · Gitte Rasmussen ; Intercultural Pragmatics · Robert
- Thornbury, S. (2007).*How to Teach Vocabulary*. Malaysia:Pearson Longman
- Tomasello, M. (2003). *Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Treffers-Daller, J. (2007). *A Handbook of Pragmatics*, New York: John Benjamins Publishing Company
- Trier, J. (1931), *Der deutsche Wortschatz im Sinnbezirk des Verstandes*, Ph.D. diss. Bonn.
- Yule, G.(1998).*Explaining English Grammar*. Oxford University Press.
- Wambiri,G.&Muthee, D. (2010). *Research monitoring and evaluation in ECDE programs*. Nairobi: SasaSema Publications.
- Wardhaugh, R. (2006). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Weinreich, U.(2011). *Languages in contact: French, German and Romansh in twentieth-century Switzerland*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Winter-Froemel E. (2013). *Formal Variance and Semantic Changes in borrowing: Integrating Semasiology and Onomasiology in*: Eline Zenner and Gitte Kristiansen (Eds): *New Perspectives on Lexical Borrowing (Language Contact and Bilingualism, 7)* Berlin: Gruyter Mouton, 65-100
- Wu, Q. (1988). *Introduction to Semantics*. Changsha: Hunan Education Press.
- Zhou, W. (2001). A New Research on English Semantic Field. *Journal of Beijing International Studies University*, 102, 30-35

## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Lutirichi Hyponyms

HYPERNYMS	HYPONYMS	CO-HYPONYMS	PART OF SPEECH
<i>Tsinguvu</i> (clothes)	<i>Lishati</i> (shirt), <i>iroong'u</i> (trousers), <i>shinyasa</i> (shorts) <i>ikoofya</i> , (hat), <i>shikamata</i> (braziers), <i>isweta</i> (sweater)		<b>Noun</b>
<i>Vucheri</i> (intelligence)	<i>Vucheri</i> (intelligence) , <i>limanya</i> (wisdom) , <i>vuusiirya</i> (gifted)		<b>Adjectives</b>
<i>Virhaakwa</i> (plants)	<i>Matuunda</i> (fruits)	<i>Maembe</i> (mangoes), <i>lirhemwa</i> (banana), <i>mutumika</i> (custard apple), <i>mukamarhi</i> (passion fruit), <i>matuunda</i> <i>malaanda</i> (purple passion fruit), <i>vushererwe</i> (mulberry), <i>mapeera</i> (quava), <i>tsimbuune</i> (cape raspberry), <i>lipopo</i> (pawpaw)	<b>Noun</b>
	<i>Viakhuria</i> (grains)	<i>Matuuma</i> (maize) – <i>matuuma</i> <i>matirichi</i> (indigenous maize), <i>matuuma</i> <i>masuungu</i> (hybrid), <i>shibendi</i> (yellow maize) <i>Mavere</i> (sorghum) – <i>ikhumba</i> (white finger sorghum), <i>shisuudi</i> ( sweet sorghum) <i>Maghaanda</i> (beans)- <i>mirhinjedi</i> (kidney beans), <i>vukiimwi</i> (black beans), <i>maghaanda</i> <i>gilooni</i> (French beans), <i>idaamang'eo</i> (pinto beans), <i>marheeso</i> (rose coco), <i>tsinjootoge</i> (white beans)	

	<p><i>Tsingutsa</i> (vegetables)</p> <p><i>Shimuli</i> (flower)</p>	<p><i>-linyolonyolo</i> (wandering jew)</p> <p><i>--murhere</i> (jute mallow)</p> <p><i>-inderema</i> ( -malabar spinach/ vine spinach)</p> <p><i>-likhuuvi</i> (Cow peas leaves)</p> <p><i>tsisakaa</i> (amaranth leaves)</p> <p><i>livokoyi</i> (amaranthus)</p> <p><i>lisuutsa</i> (blacknight shade)</p> <p><i>-tsinyaanya</i> (tomatoes)</p> <p><i>-tsikaalati</i> (carrots)</p> <p><i>- vituunguulu</i> (onions) <i>-lipwooni</i> (potato)e <i>Shimuli/ rywawa</i></p>	<b>Noun</b>
<i>Khuteekha</i> (cooking)	<p><i>-khuviritsa</i> (boil)</p> <p><i>-khusihiira</i> (fry)</p> <p><i>-khusaamba</i> (roast)</p> <p><i>Khuluuga</i> (cook ugali)</p>		<b>Verb</b>
<i>Mihiinsi</i> (occupations)	<p><i>Muroonji</i> (potter)</p> <p><i>Munaavi</i> (tailor)</p> <p><i>Mwirhanyi</i> (blacksmith)</p> <p><i>Murimi</i> (farmer)</p>		nouns
<i>Khuchenda</i> (walking)	<p><i>Kwirukhaaka</i> (running)</p> <p><i>Kwiideya</i> (trudging)</p> <p><i>Kwiinyola</i> (sauntering)</p> <p><i>Khuyuuga</i> (dashing)</p> <p><i>Khuhuyahuya</i> (roaming)</p>		<b>Verb</b>

Likoondo	<p>-ya <i>mayaa</i>i (yellow)          -ya <i>buulu</i> (blue)</p> <p>-ya-<i>vuliimo</i> (green)          -ya-<i>maloova</i> (brown)          -<i>imuuchi</i> (red)          -<i>imwaamu</i> (black)          -<i>Indaavu</i> (white)          -ya <i>paapo</i> (purple)          -  <i>murhandaavule</i>(gray)</p>	-	Adjective
<i>Tsinyama</i>	<p><i>Tsinyama tsyu mu vulimo</i></p> <p><i>Tsinyama tsyu munsu</i></p>	<p>-ikutunyi (lion)          -iirhi (leopard)          -itiika (giraffe)          -isukhiri (Zebra)          -imboko (buffalo)          -inseku(elephant)          -imbirhi (hyena)          -imboongo (gazelle)          -linani (cheetah)          -tsinguvu (hippotamus)          -shing'ang'a (fox)          -Ing'oombe (cow)</p>	nouns

		-ingulume ( pig) -likoondi (sheep) -imbuli(goat) -likhaanga (-guinea fowl) -libaada (duck) -ingokhoo(chicken)	
Khuteekha(- cooking )	-khuviritsa (boil) -khusihiira (fry) -khusaamba (roast) Khuluuga (cooking ugali )		Verb
Shipimoo (size)	-shighaali(big) -shitiitiiti (small)		Adjectives
Viuchi (weapons)	- -shivaavi (swords) -murhuunda (gun) -lirhimo (arrow) -rhihalo(sickle) -shikong'o (club) -ingavo (shield) -irootwa (knife) -ibomu(bomb)		Noun



<i>Khuloola</i> (seeing)	- <i>-khuheensa</i> (look) <i>-khutoovana</i> (stare) <i>-khutsenjeera</i> (gaze)		Verb
Inyuungu (pot)	- <i>shipaanji</i> (A pot used for storing water for drinking.) ) <i>-isaayika</i> -(A pot used for fetching water from the river)  <i>-yaakhaluka</i> (-A pot used for preparing ugali.)  <i>-iyaambova</i>  <i>-iyaamachere</i> (A pot used for cooking meat.)  <i>-illeemo</i> (A pot used for cooking mashroom.) )  <i>-isikha</i> (A very big pot A pot used for brewing or ripening bananas.)		Noun
<i>Mihinsi</i>	- <i>-muroonj</i> (porter)  <i>-munaavi</i> (tailor)  <i>-mwirhany</i> (blacksmith)  <i>-murimi</i> (farmer)		Noun
<i>Shiruuvi</i> (Basket)	- <i>-indahii</i> (A basket used to store grains inside the house.		Noun

	<p>)</p> <p><i>-shiteera</i> (A basket used to store grains outside the house).</p> <p><i>-muhiinda</i> (-A very big basket)</p> <p><i>-shihigulanga</i> (A medium basket.)</p> <p><i>-shitoonji</i> (A small basket.)</p> <p><i>-inovoto</i> ( -A tiny basket.)</p>		
--	--	--	--

## Appendix II: Focus Group Discussion

### Introduction

I take this opportunity to appreciate you for participating in this study. All the information that you will give is particularly meant for the purpose of this study.

The information you will provide will be treated with confidentiality and is purely for the purpose of this research.

Kind regards.

### Instructions

A. Mark (√) where you think is most appropriate

a. Your age:

i. Below 45 years    Yes        No   

ii. Above 46 years    Yes        No   

b. Indigenous speaker of    Yes        No      
Lutirichi

c. For how long have you lived among Avatirichi people?

i. 10 years    Yes        No   

ii. Less than 10 years    Yes        No   

iii. More than 20 years    Yes        No   

d. How often do you communicate in the Lutirichi language?

i. Rarely    Yes        No   

ii. Daily    Yes        No   

### B. Guiding questions

#### Hyponyms and their hypernyms

1. Kindly tell me about some words in Lutirichi that are related in meaning.
2. How are these words related to each other in meaning?
3. Kindly help me categorize the words according to their parts of speech.

4. Why do some of these names of objects resemble those of Kiswahili and English?
5. Do we have any other meaning of these words apart from their traditional meaning?
6. Kindly give examples of sentences in the following words that bring about different meanings according to how the words are used.

Vucheeri      intelligence

Rhipwooni      potato

Vuree      millet

Shimuli      flowers

Shing'ang'a      fox

Khuteekha      to cook

Shighaali      big

Imwamu      black

Isimbwa      a dog

Linani      cheetah

Isweeta      a sweater

Matuunda      fruits

Buulu      blue

Ibomu      bomb

Vukimwi      HIV/ AIDS

Khutoola      to pick

7. What do you think we can do to make everyone in Tiriki to understand using these words to produce different meanings?

**Appendix III : Lexical semantic variation due to borrowing and coining**

HYPONYM	THE ORIGIN OF THE BORROWED AND COINED HYPONYM	GLOSS	THE MEANING VARIATION IN A SENTENCE	GLOSS
<i>Isikaati</i>	English -Skirt -	Skirt	<i>Tsindoli waitsula muisikaati</i>	Tsindoli is up to the task.
<i>Vukiimwi</i>	Kiswahili – Ukimwi	AIDS	<i>Maaganda ghaa vukiimwi ghanurha</i>	The black beans are sweet.
<i>Isweeta</i>	English – sweater	Sweater	<i>Uyu ni mucheeri alakhuvikha isweeta</i>	He will bewitch you, he is a witch.
<i>Ikoofya</i>	Kiswahili – kofia	Hat	<i>Lusichi uvikhilwe ikoofya, kwiwirori hee.</i>	Lusichi feels proud of his new appointment.
<i>Buulu</i>	English- Blue	Blue – Colour	<i>Indaa inumii muno, ndooli gha buulu.</i>	I had a severe stomach ache, I really suffered.
<i>Matuunda</i>	Kiswahili- Matunda	Fruit	<i>Mwikhuula watukha mumatuunda.</i>	His son has become rich
<i>Maawa</i>	Kiswahili- Maua	Flowers	<i>Tsirupya ni maawa vutswa.</i>	Money is vanity.
<i>Ibomu</i>	English – bomb	Bomb	<i>Tomu amulaasi ibomu mbaka alarila</i>	Tom insulted him until he cried
<i>Ing'ombe</i>	Kiswahili – Ng'ombe	Cow	<i>Ing'ombe iyii ikhoori shiina yiishi?</i>	What has this fool done?
<i>Iroong'u</i>	Kiswahili – long'i	Trousers	<i>Yohana waitsuraa muiroong'u.</i>	John is up to the task. Competent.

**Appendix IV: Lexical semantic variation in Lutirichi hyponyms**

<b>HYPONYM</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>	<b>MEANING VARIATION</b>	<b>SENTENCE</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
Khutoola	To pick	To abuse	Anduvarhe amutooli litoola	Anduvarhe really abused him.
<i>Vuree</i>	Millet	Alcohol	<i>Khuhuuli</i> <i>vuree</i> <i>vuduukhu</i> <i>vwosi</i>	We drunk alcohol the whole night.
<i>Shimuli</i>	Flower	Vanity	<i>Tsirupya ni</i> <i>shimuli</i> <i>vutswa.</i>	Money is vanity.
<i>Shing'ang'a</i>	Fox	Merciless	<i>Oyoo ni</i> <i>shing'ang'a</i> <i>uheense</i> <i>vulaahi.</i>	He is merciless, be careful.
<i>Khuteekha</i>	cooking	To get married	<i>Vuleche wa</i> <i>teekha</i> <i>Kakamega</i>	Vuleche got married in Kakamega.
<i>Shighaari</i>	Big	Leadership/promotion	<i>Unyori</i> <i>vughaari</i>	He has become a leader./He has been

				promoted.
<i>Imwamu</i>	Black	Evil heart	<i>Urhi nu mwoyo mumwamu.</i>	You have an evil heart.
<i>Isimbwa</i>	Dog	bad behavior	<i>Mwikhula wewe ni isimbwa</i>	His son is behaving badly.
<i>Linani</i>	cheetah	Giant/very big	<i>Yagwaa linani.</i>	He has grown very big./ He is a giant.
<i>lipwooni</i>	Potato	Bribe	<i>Shuuma uhani lipwooni kwanyoore mhinsi.</i>	Shuma has bribed in order to get a job.

**Appendix V: Raw data from respondents**

**Khucheenda kwirhukhaaka khumoola khwiinyoola khuyuuka**

**Mukhaari mukhayee mugogo mushere mukhana**

**Khuyaansa khusangaala khumweenya khuseekha khuheenyeritsa**

**Manani makoondi inuusu-vulaaya ingokho imbukhuu**

**Mavere inganu matuuma shivutse tsimbalukha makaanda**

**Rhishaati iroong'u ikoofya isweeto isikati shikaamta**

**Mihiinsi muroonji munaavi mwirhanyi murimi musikari**

**Vucheeri limanya msuluhalu vuusiirya vavirha musirho**

**Inyuunguu shipaanji isaayika iyaambova iyaamachere illeemo**

**Tsingutsa shirhyeetso itokoty linyolonyolo likhuuvi murhere**

**Khuchenda khuvoyavoya kwiideya kwinyola khuyuuga**

**kwirukhaaka khumoola khuhuyahuya khususuma**

## APPENDIX VI : APPROVAL LETTER



MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MMUST)

Tel: 056-30870  
Fax: 056-30153  
E-mail: [directordps@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:directordps@mmust.ac.ke)  
Website: [www.mmust.ac.ke](http://www.mmust.ac.ke)

P.O Box 190  
Kakamega – 50100  
Kenya

**Directorate of Postgraduate Studies**

Ref: MMU/COR: 509099

1<sup>st</sup> August, 2024

Sylvia Khavaya Shiroso  
LAL/G/01-70001/2022  
P.O. Box 190-50100  
**KAKAMEGA**

Dear Ms. Shiroso

**RE: APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL**

I am pleased to inform you that the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies has considered and approved your Masters proposal entitled: "*Lexical Semantic Variations in Lulirichi Hyponyms*"

1. Dr. James Matseshe - MMUST
2. Dr. Bernard Mudogo - MMUST

You are required to submit through your supervisor(s) progress reports every three months to the Director of Postgraduate Studies. Such reports should be copied to the following: Chairman, School of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee and Chairman, Department of Language and Literature. Kindly adhere to research ethics consideration in conducting research.

It is the policy and regulations of the University that you observe a deadline of two years from the date of registration to complete your master's thesis. Do not hesitate to consult this office in case of any problem encountered in the course of your work.

We wish you the best in your research and hope the study will make original contribution to knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Stephen O. Odebero, PhD, FIEEP  
**DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

Scanned with ACE Scanner

**APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH LICENSE**

  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **830763** Date of Issue: **09/August/2024**


**RESEARCH LICENSE**



This is to Certify that Ms. Sylvia Khavaya of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Vihiga on the topic: **LEXICAL SEMANTIC VARIATIONS IN LUTIRICHI HYPONYMS** for the period ending : **09/August/2025**.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/24/38976**

**830763**  
Applicant Identification Number

  
Director General  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code



NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document,  
Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

**See overleaf for conditions**

**APPENDIX VIII: MAP OF THE STUDY AREA**

