

A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF TWO STANDARDISED VARIETIES OF SENA

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by

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this work is my own original work and has not been previously submitted in any form whatsoever, by myself or anyone else, to this university or any other educational institution for any degree or examination purposes.

I have acknowledged all sources used in this dissertation.

Signed by:.....

Date:.....

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Abstract

The main aim of this study was to assess the degree of similarity or variation between the two cross-border standardised varieties of the Sena language spoken in Malawi and Mozambique. The study sets out to test the hypothesis that the two varieties are similar enough to be standardised into one common standard Sena. A contrastive analysis was done on the translated Biblical texts of Jonah and Matthew in both varieties on the grammatical, orthographical and lexical level. The findings show that on a grammatical and lexical level there is minimal variation, but on an orthographical level there is a 20% variation partly due to different orthographic conventions used by the translators. These findings suggest that in the light of the current trend of regionalisation, standardisation is desirable and could be achieved by a cross-border language commission.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and acronyms appear in this study:

BSMal	Bible Society of Malawi
BSMoz	Bible Society of Mozambique
CA	Contrastive analysis
CAVA	
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
Jnh	The Book of Jonah
Mt	The Gospel of Matthew
MLS	The Sena variety spoken in Malawi
MZS	The Sena variety spoken in Mozambique
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
pers. pl.	person plural
pers. sing.	person singular
RM	Radio Mozambique
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics

Table of Contents

Declaration	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Abbreviations	v

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the research	1
1.2 The research problem	5
1.3 Aims of the research	10
1.4 Hypothesis	12
1.5 Research method	12
1.5.1 Limitations of this research	15
1.6 Language profiles of Malawi and Mozambique	16
1.6.1 Basic statistics and language profile of Malawi	16
Fig 1.1 Linguistic Map of Malawi	17
Fig 1.2 Linguistic Map of Mozambique	18
1.6.2 Basic statistics and language profile of Mozambique	19
1.7 The Sena Language	19
1.7.1 History and Classification	19
1.7.2 Portuguese influence on Sena	20
1.7.3 English influence on Sena	21
1.8 Outline of thesis	21

CHAPTER 2

CROSS-BORDER LANGUAGES AND LANGUAGE STANDARDISATION

2.0 Introduction	23
2.1 The language situation in Malawi	24
2.2 The language situation in Mozambique	28
2.3 Cross-border language issues	32
2.4 Language Standardisation	37
2.5 Conclusion	41

CHAPTER 3**A GRAMMATICAL CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE
TWO SENA VARIETIES**

3.0	Introduction	42
3.1	CA based on basic Sena Grammar	43
3.1.1	The verb stem, pronouns and tense markers	43
	3.1.1.1 Subject concords	44
	3.1.1.2 Object concords	44
3.1.2	Pluperfect tense	44
3.1.3	Perfect tense	45
3.1.4	Imperfect tense or simple past tense	46
3.1.5	Present continuous tense	52
3.1.6	Present or immediate future tense	53
3.1.7	Future tense	54
3.1.8	Habitual tense	55
3.1.9	Emphatic tense marker	56
3.1.10	Condition or possibility	57
3.1.11	Past continuous tense	58
3.1.12	Negatives	58
3.1.13	CA of Verbal suffixes	60
3.1.14	The verb 'to be'	64
3.2	Conclusion	66

CHAPTER 4**ORTHOGRAPHICAL AND LEXICAL CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS
OF MLS AND MZS**

4.0	Introduction	68
4.1	Orthographical CA	68
4.1.1	<i>v</i> versus <i>bv</i>	69
4.1.2	<i>m</i> versus <i>n</i>	69
4.1.3	<i>m'</i> versus <i>n'</i>	71
4.1.4	<i>f</i> versus <i>pf</i>	72
4.1.5	<i>ch</i> versus <i>c</i>	72
4.1.6	<i>sh</i> versus <i>x</i>	73
4.1.7	<i>dj</i> versus <i>y</i>	74
4.1.8	<i>ts</i> versus <i>ns</i>	75
4.1.9	Aspirated versus non aspirated	76
	4.1.9.1 <i>d</i> versus <i>dh</i>	76
	4.1.9.2 <i>b</i> versus <i>bh</i>	76
4.1.10	The vowel glides	76
4.1.11	Orthographical influence on Biblical names	77

4.2	Lexical CA	77
4.2.1	A broad, quantifiable overview	79
4.2.2	A selective detailed CA on a lexical level	80
4.2.2.1	Lexical items found only in one variety, or non-mutually intelligible items	80
4.2.2.2	Lexical items in both varieties with the same spelling but with different meanings	84
4.2.2.3	Lexical items in both varieties with the same meaning but with different spelling	85
4.2.2.4	Lexical items found in both varieties but with different meaning and spelling	86
4.2.2.5	Words which have noun class variations	86
4.2.3	Stylistic differences	88
4.3	Conclusion	89

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.0	Introduction	91
5.1	Summary of findings	91
5.2	Implications for harmonisation	94
5.3	Limitations of this dissertation	96
5.4	Recommendations for possible harmonisation of MLS and MZS	97
5.5	Conclusion	101

BIBLIOGRAPHY	103
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APPENDIX A: Languages of Malawi	112
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APPENDIX B: Languages of Mozambique	114
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APPENDIX C: Wordlist of 500 most common words in MLS and MZS	117
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