

African languages: From Cape to Cairo, via Colchester

Hannah Gibson

University of Essex



Swahili taster

Karibuni!

Swahili taster

Jina lako nani?

Jina langu_____.

Swahili taster

A: Hujambo?

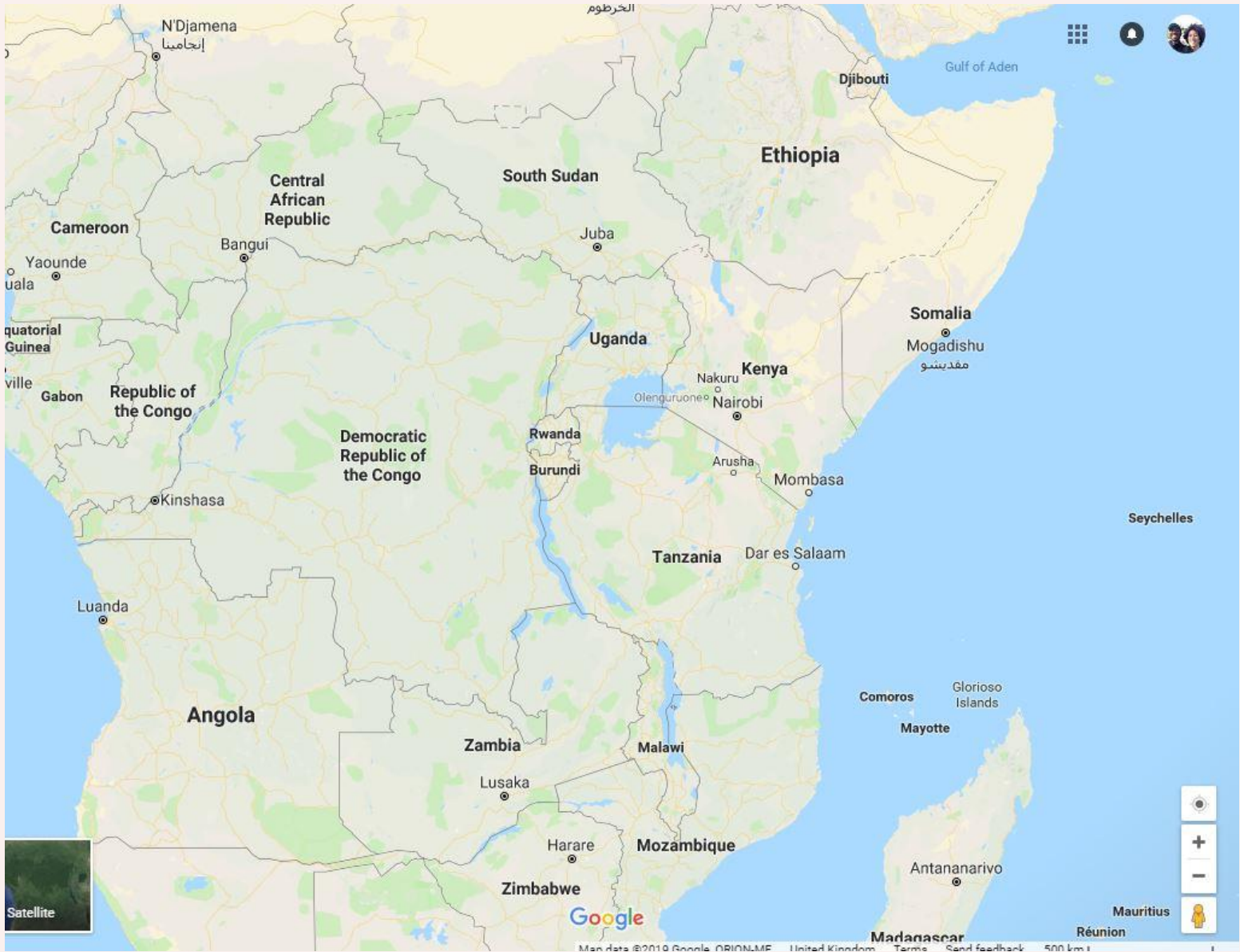
B: Sijambo.

A: Jina lako nani?

B: Jina langu _____. Jina lako nani?

A: Jina langu _____.





Habari? nzuri



Habari...

Habari za asubuhi?

Nzuri!

Habari za mchana?

Nzuri!

Habari za jioni?

Nzuri!

Habari? Nzuri sana!



Habari za...

nyumbani

masomo

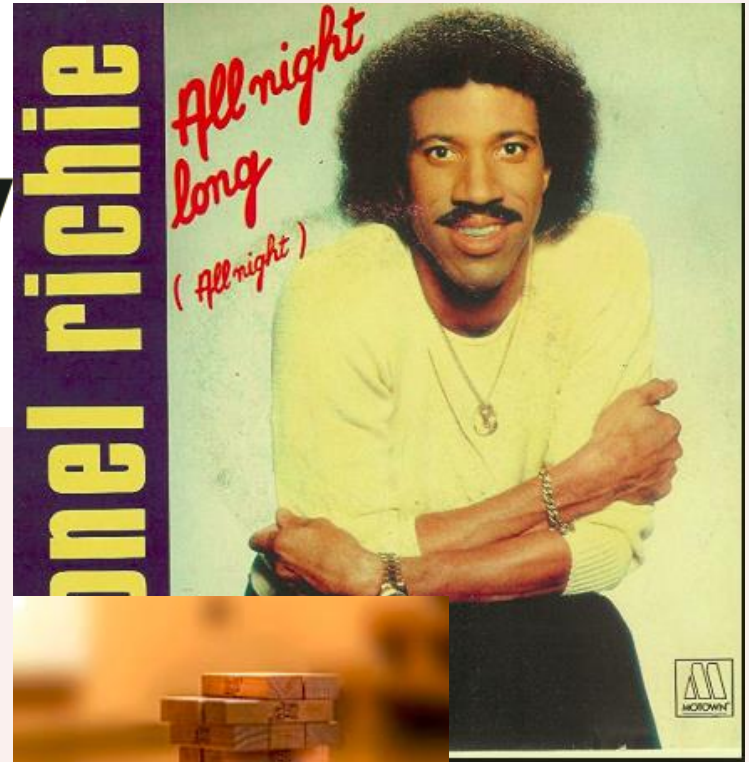
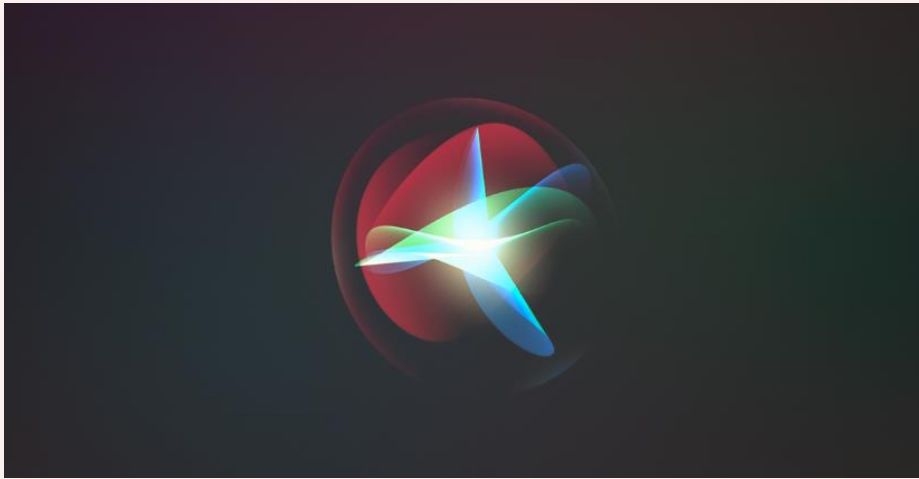
kazi

نِعْمَ ارْحَمُ رَبِّي ۝ مَا كُنْتُ وَوَسْوَاتِ ۝ اَبْلَدٍ وَصِيَاتِ ۝ عَسَا اَكْرِ عَتِيَا ۝
 نُدُو بِاِجْسِ ۝ نُودُ نَعْدَ طَسِ ۝ مَيْتِي نَبِ حَدِيثِ ۝ لِمَيْدِ كُوْهَا يِيَا ۝
 حِسَاكِ ۝ كَعَرَبِي ۝ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ كُتُوْبُ ۝ مُهْمَتِي يِ نَاعِيْبِي ۝ نَصَاحَاتِي بِهِيَا ۝
 تَلَسَّ كَالِ نَعَارِ ۝ اِنَّ لِمَعْمُوْرِيْنَ ۝ بَابِي تُوْبِي بَجَارِ ۝ مَعِ نُوْغِيْصِيَا ۝
 مَدْرَطِيْ نِيْشِيَا كَا ۝ حَتْمِيْ يَمِيْمَ مَاكِي ۝ سِيَاكِي كَتَا ۝ سَكَا ۝ نِيْمُوْ لِمَا كَبِيَا ۝
 مَوْتِ عَدَمِ سِكْتِي ۝ تُوْلِيْمِي سِيُوْتِي ۝ وَوَحِيَا نِيْمُوْتِي ۝ اِيُوَا تَسَالِيَا ۝
 مَنَاحِ تَاوِ وَعَطِيَا ۝ يَمِيَا نِيَاغِ رُطِيَا ۝ مَعِ اَتْوَحِيْفِيَا ۝ اَحْبُوْبِي نِيْمَا ۝
 تَاوِي نِكُوْبِي حِيْرِي ۝ اَيْفِيْمِي كُوْنِي ۝ اِيْبِي نَعْنِيْدِي ۝ اَيِّيَا تِي مَنَ مَقَا ۝
 تَلْعِيَا كِيَا تِ ۝ جِلْدِي نِيْمِي جَانِي ۝ نَحْفِيَا كِيَا مَكِي سَانِي ۝ سَعُوْبِي كِيَا نِيْمَا ۝
 يَدِي نَكِي يَفِيْحِي ۝ جِيْدِي مِي كِي سَلِيْحِي ۝ اَمَا يِي كَتِي سَلِيْحِي ۝ اَيِّيَا تِي كِيَا خَلِيَا ۝
 يَاغِي اَنْكَلِي سَكَا ۝ مَنَاحِي هِي سَبَكَا ۝ دِيْيَا تِي اَنْفُوْسَا ۝ نَا خِيْرَا اَنْفِيَا ۝
 لِكَا دِي كَمِي دِيْنِي ۝ فَرَطِي اَمِيْرِي عِيْنِي ۝ نَسُوْ اِيْمِي لِي ۝ اَسُوْبِي كِي تِي ۝
 يَلِي اُوْ نَعْدِي ۝ تُوْبِي وَتُوْبِي ۝ اُوْ كِي مَحْبُوْبِي ۝ مَلَا اَنْكَلِي خِيَا ۝





**Safari. The best way
to see the sites.**



Kuna maswali?

II. Languages in Africa

How many languages are there in the world?

How many languages are there in Africa?

The world's languages

	Languages	Percentage
Africa	2,110	31%
Americas	993	14%
Asia	2322	34%
Europe	234	3%
Pacific	1,250	18%
World	6,909	

(Ethnologue 2009, www.ethnologue.org)

The world's languages

- 90% of the world's population speaks one of 100 languages
- 10% of the world's population speaks one of the remaining 6,000+ languages
- 94% of the world's languages are spoken by 6% of the world's population
- 50%-90% of the world's languages are endangered

(Lewis 2009)

Regional lingua francas

Physical Map of the World, June 2003

AUSTRALIA Independent state
Bermuda Dependency or area of special sovereignty
Sicily / AZORES Island / island group
★ Capital
Scale 1:25,000,000
Reference Projection
standard parallels 30° N and 30° S



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*Note: less than 20% of languages shown due to space.

Background

- African languages contribute to the linguistic diversity of the world.
 - Number of languages
 - Linguistic complexity
 - Structural features
 - High levels of multilingualism
 - Presence of (former) colonial languages

Multilingualism

<i>Country</i>	<i>Official language(s)</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Official language(s)</i>
Angola	Portuguese	Malawi	English, Chichewa
Benin	French	Mali	French
Botswana	English, Setswana	Mauritania	Arabic
Burkina Faso	French, Moore, Manding, Fulfulde	Mozambique	Portuguese
Burundi	French, KiRundi	Namibia	English
Cameroon	French, English	Niger	French
Central African R.	French	Nigeria	English, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba
Congo	French, Lingala	Rwanda	French, Kinyarwanda
Côte d'Ivoire	French	Senegal	French
Chad	French, Arabic	Sierra Leone	English
D. Rep. of Congo	French, KiKongo, Lingala, KiLuba	Somalia	Somali
Djibouti	French	South Africa	English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Sepedi, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga
Equatorial Guinea	Spanish	Sudan	Arabic
Eritrea	English	Swaziland	English, siSwati
Ethiopia	English, Amharic	Tanzania	English, Swahili
Gabon	French	Togo	French
Gambia	English	Uganda	English
Ghana	English	Zambia	English
Guinea	French, Fuuta Jalon	Zimbabwe	English
Guinea-Bissau	Portuguese		
Kenya	English, Swahili		
Lesotho	English, Sesotho		
Liberia	English		
Madagascar	French, Malagasy		

Multilingualism



- English, Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa

III. African language structures

Tone versus stress

English = stress language

- One element is prominent in each word:

concenttration

permit (noun) - permit (verb)

- Many African languages exhibit tone

Tone

Lexical tone: Contour tone in Mandarin and Thai

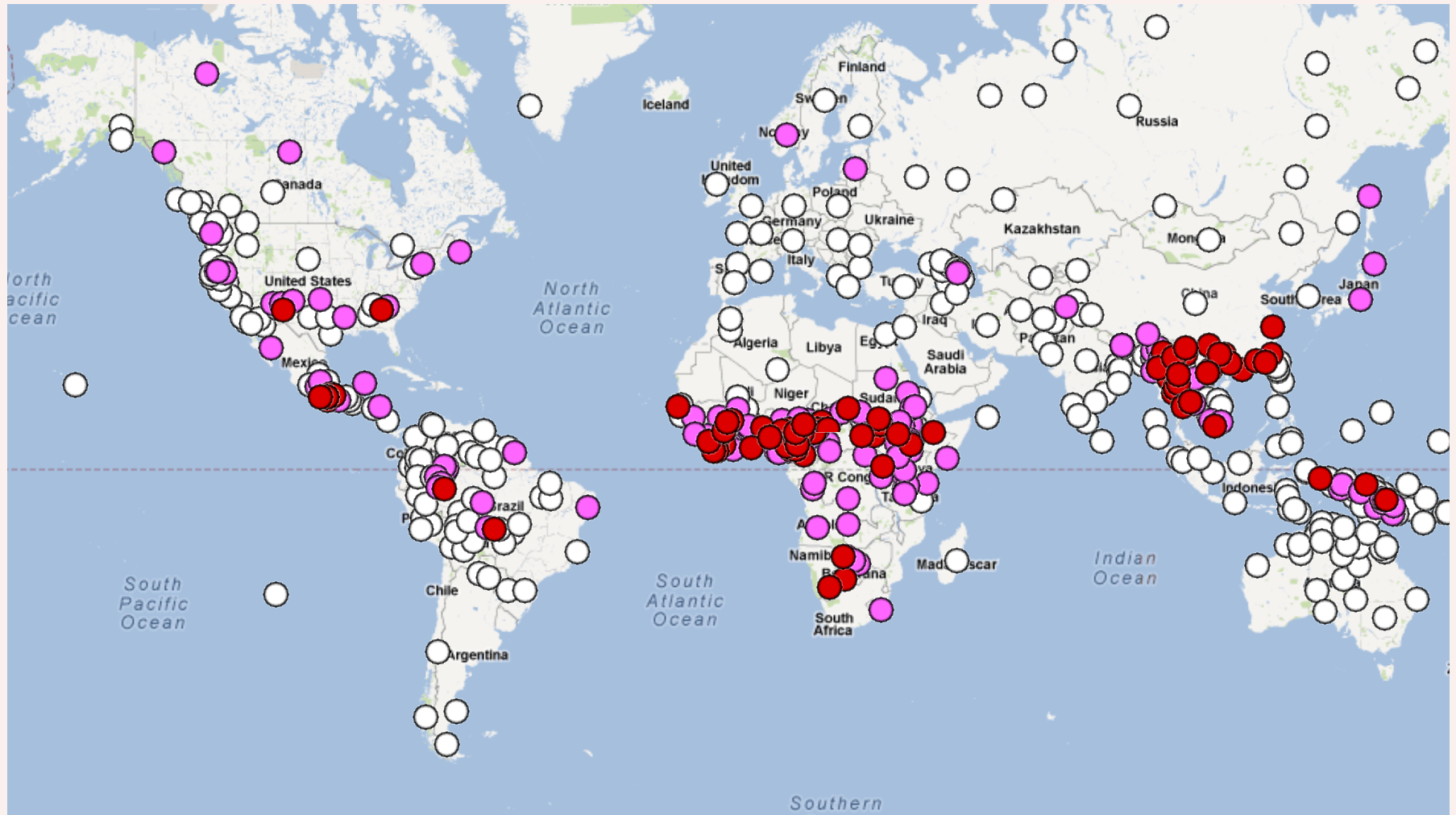
Mandarin	<i>mā</i>	high level	55	‘mother’
	<i>mǎ</i>	high rising	35	‘hemp’
	<i>mǎ̃</i>	low falling	214	‘horse’
	<i>mâ</i>	high falling	51	‘scold’
Thai	<i>naa</i>	low falling	21	‘Naa’
	<i>naa</i>	high falling	51	‘face’
	<i>naa</i>	high rising	45	‘aunt’
	<i>naa</i>	low falling rising	215	‘thick’
	<i>naa</i>	mid falling	32	‘field’

Tone

Lexical tone: Tone in Bemba, Herero and Yoruba .

Bemba	<i>lúká</i>	HH	‘vomit’	<i>bómbá</i>	HH	‘be wet’
	<i>lùkà</i>	LL	‘plait!’	<i>bòmbà</i>	LL	‘work!’
Herero	<i>òngángá</i>	LHH	‘guinea			fowl’
	<i>òngàngà</i>	LLL	‘doctor’			
Yoruba	<i>ó wá</i>	H	‘he comes’			
	<i>ó wā</i>	M	‘he looked’			
	<i>ò wà</i>	L	‘he existed’			

Tone languages of the world



Click consonants

Zulu

incwadi	‘book’
-cabanga	‘think’
iqanda	‘egg’
ixolo	‘bark (of tree)’

Xhosa

u-nceda	‘help’
uku-qaba	‘to paint’
uku-xuba	‘to mix’

Grammatical gender

Noun classification systems include

- nominal classifiers (e.g. Bengali, Chinese)
- gender systems (e.g. Latin, German, French, Spanish)
- noun classes (e.g. Bantu)

Noun classes and noun classifiers are very wide-spread in African and Asian languages.

Nominal classification

Gender in German

der *Stuhl* masculine

‘The chair’

die *Flasche* feminine

‘The bottle’

das *Auto* neuter

‘The car’

Nominal classification

- Swahili noun classes (16 genders)

cl 1/2	<i>m-tu</i>	'person'	<i>wa-tu</i>	'people'
	<i>m-<u>geni</u></i>	'guest'	<i>wa-<u>geni</u></i>	'guests'
cl 3/4	<i>m-ti</i>	'tree'	<i>mi-ti</i>	'trees'
	<i>m-<u>lima</u></i>	'mountain'	<i>mi-<u>lima</u></i>	'mountains'
cl 5/6	<i>ji-cho</i>	'eye'	<i>ma-cho</i>	'eyes'
	<i>ji-<u>we</u></i>	'stone'	<i>ma-<u>we</u></i>	'stones'
cl 7/8	<i>ki-tabu</i>	'book'	<i>vi-tabu</i>	'books'
	<i>ki-<u>tanda</u></i>	'bed'	<i>vi-<u>tanda</u></i>	'beds'
cl 9/10	<i>n-goma</i>	'drum'	<i>n-goma</i>	'drums'
	<i>safari</i>	'journey'	<i>safari</i>	'journeys'
cl 11	<i>u-ukuta</i>	'wall'		
	<i>u-<u>zuri</u></i>	'beauty'		

Nominal classification

Swahili

Ki-tabu hi-**ki** **ki**-kubwa **ki**-zuri **ki**-na-**ch**-onivuitia

‘This big good book that I am interested in’

M-tu amba-**ye** a-me-soma Kireno shuleni...

‘The person who has studied Portuguese at school...’

Language structures

- Despite differences and some characteristics of African languages also many commonalities with other languages...
- SVO word order ≈ English
- Noun-Adj order ≈ Spanish
- Tone ≈ Thai, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese
- Verb/noun distinction ≈ universal?

Language contact

Loanwords in English

- Swahili *safari, jenga*
- Zulu *impala, vuvuzela*

- Chinese *tea, yin, yang, wok, tai chi*
- Japanese *tsunami*
- Arabic *alcohol, algebra, alchemy (> chemistry), spinach*
- Hindi/Urdu *bungalow, jungle, shampoo*
- Persian *assassin, jasmine, khaki (via Hindi/Urdu)*

III. Writing African languages

Scripts

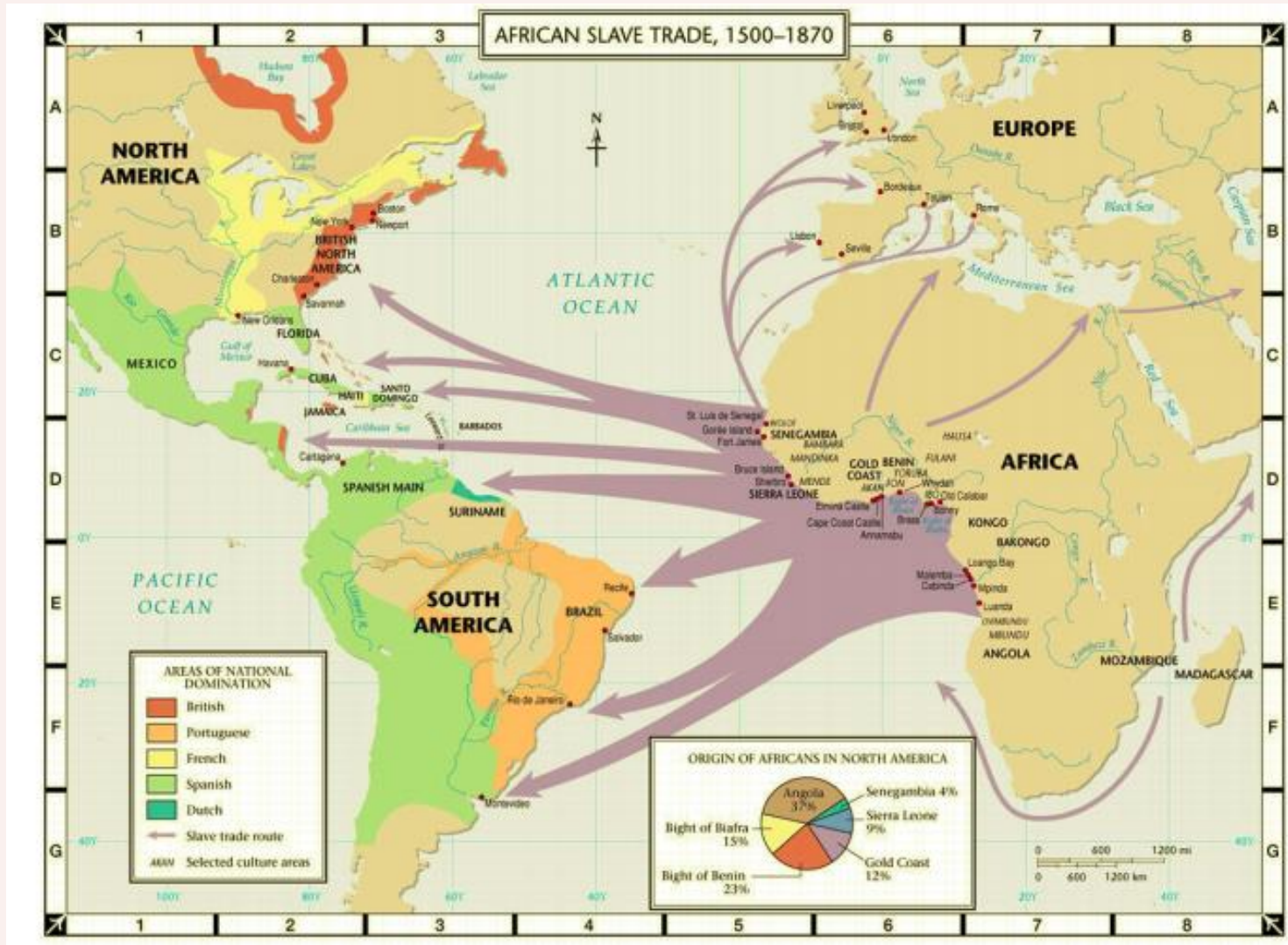


IV. African languages in the diaspora

In the diaspora

- African languages are spoken around the world.
- African language structures have also influenced many non-African languages around the world.

In the diaspora



(Source: Gramley 2009)

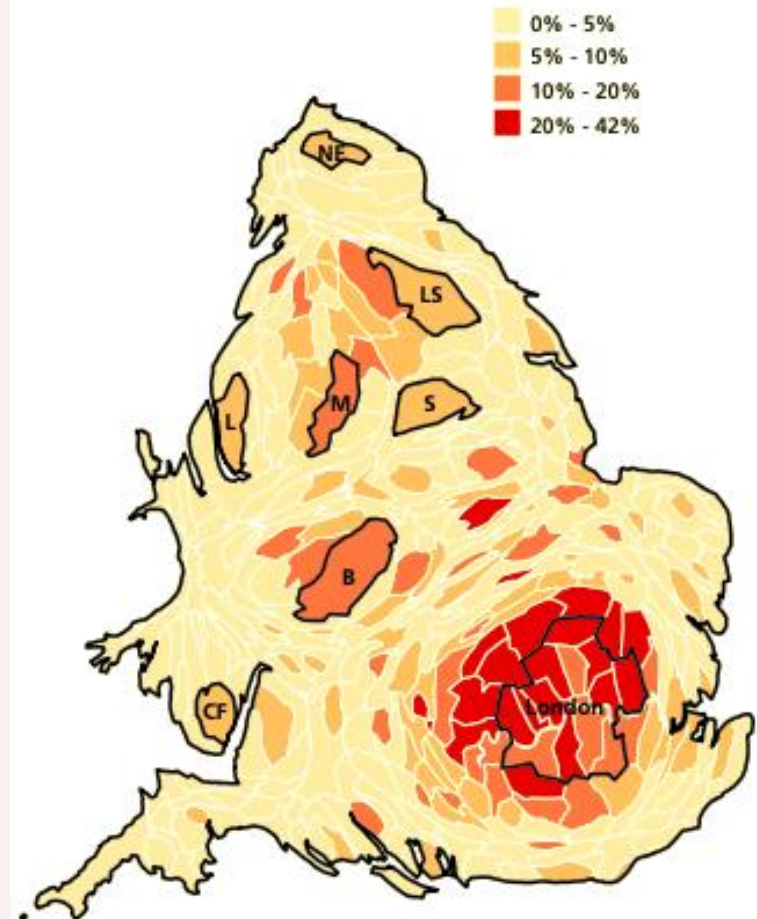
In the diaspora

- Languages other than English are part of the cultural heritage of a significant and growing proportion of the British population.
- 8% of the population report a main language other than English (or Welsh in Wales) (2011 census)
- African representatives of this include:
 - Somali, Amharic, and Tigrinya (East Africa)
 - Yoruba, Igbo and Twi (West Africa)

In the diaspora

- Difference distribution across the country
- Highest in London and other urban centres

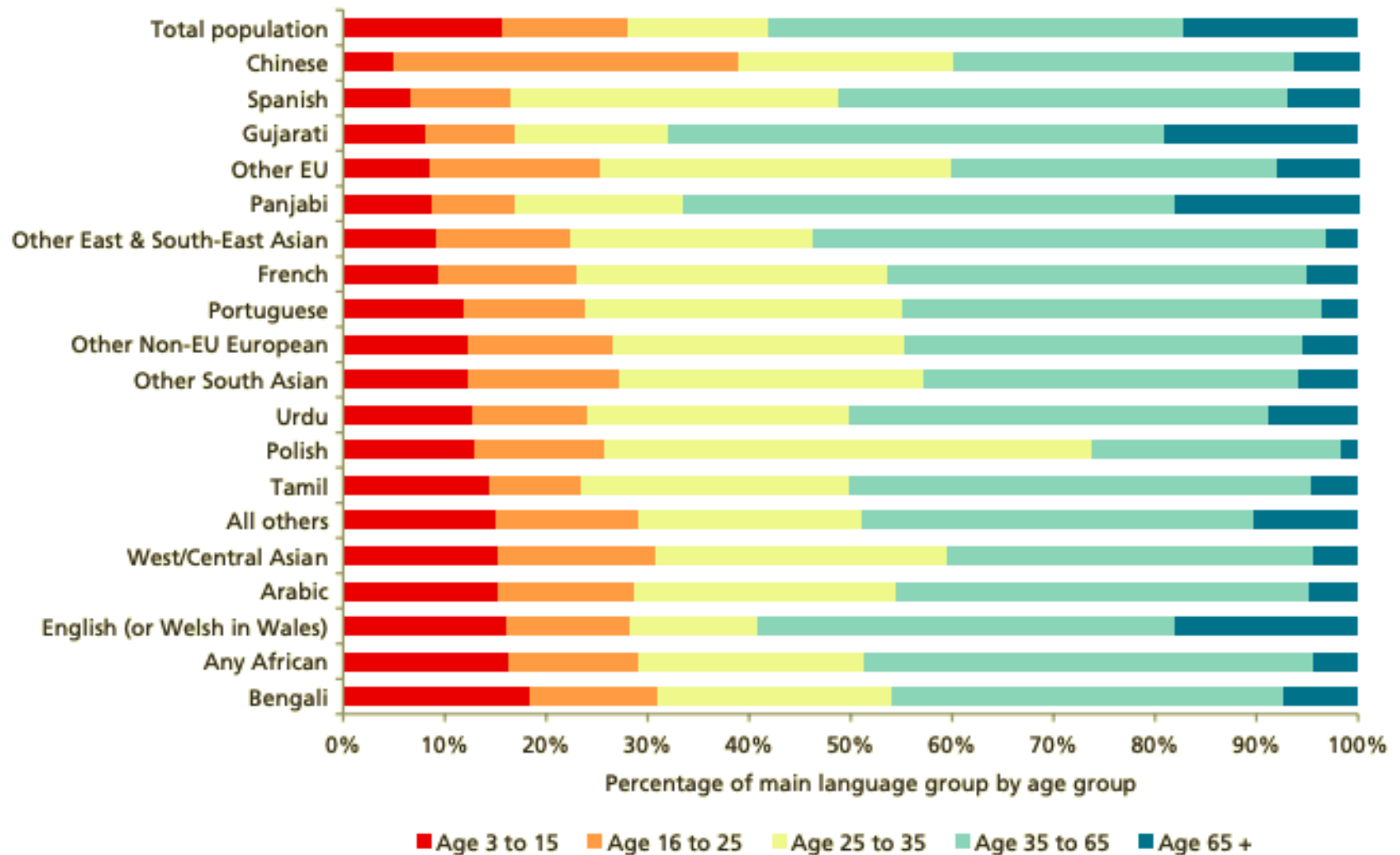
Figure 2: Percentage of population reporting a non-English main language by local authority district, 2011



(Gopal & Matras 2013)

In the diaspora

Figure 4: Age distribution of main language broad groups in England and Wales, 2011



In the diaspora

- Under-reporting is widespread
- Languages not seen as ‘languages’
- Status and prestige often low
- Multilingualism widespread
- Many among the 86% of Nigerian-born who listed English as their main language will also speak one or more Nigerian languages.
- Data from the School Census does not match that of the national census – e.g. number of Yoruba and Lingala speakers higher larger than the 2011 Census suggests?

True or false

- African languages less complex than other languages
- There are a number of different scripts used for African languages.
- African languages only spoken in Africa
- Only African languages spoken in Africa
- African languages have lots of unique features.

Thank you!
Asanteni!

Elsa James: Black Girl Essex

22 June - 22 September 2019 10am - 5pm

FREE

Join us for the launch event in Firstsite's Mosaic Gallery space on Saturday 22 June 12pm, with food from [S&S Caribbean Café](#). Exhibition then continues until Sun 29 September 2019.

Drawing on the original conception of the gallery surrounding the Berryfield Mosaic as 'Colchester's sitting room', Firstsite has re-conceived the space as a working studio for the next 3 years— a site for not only the presentation of art, but also its making.

We're delighted to announce that British African-Caribbean artist, producer and activist Elsa James will be exhibiting and working within Firstsite's 'Living Room'. Based in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, James's work focuses on opinions held towards people of African Caribbean heritage and the stereotyping of Essex women. Over the next three months, she will be using the space to develop her artwork through a programme of open discussion with the Black communities in Colchester and Essex.

Join us on Saturday 22 June 12pm to see a selection of James's existing works, and enjoy food from [S&S Caribbean Café](#).



- Qongqothwane

<https://youtu.be/vhgb60Qsjrs>

- Khawuleza

<https://youtu.be/Fqdcz0eYLSQ>

- Kwandinobva

<https://youtu.be/FidQXrs7sLo>

Badilisha (Chameleone)

- <https://youtu.be/H0PUjvdMbfw>

- Qongqothwane

<https://youtu.be/vhgb60Qsjrs>

- Khawuleza

<https://youtu.be/Fqdcz0eYLSQ>

- Kwandinobva

<https://youtu.be/FidQXrs7sLo>

Badilisha (Chameleone)

- <https://youtu.be/H0PUjvdMbfw>

Endangered languages 'hotspots'

