

New methods of investigating innovations in the World English lexicon: The case of East Africa

Josef Schmied
English Language & Linguistics
Chemnitz University of Technology
https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/phl/english/sections/ling/presentations_js.php
josef.schmied@phl.tu-chemnitz.de

0. Homework: English names of Ukraine Ministries

ChatGPT: Give me the official English names of all Ukraine Ministries

As of my last knowledge update in January 2022, the information provided might be outdated. Please verify with up-to-date sources. Here are the official English names of some key ministries in Ukraine:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of Internal Affairs
3. Ministry of **Defence**
4. Ministry of Finance
5. Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, and Agriculture
6. Ministry of Health
7. Ministry of Education and Science
8. Ministry of Culture and Information Policy
9. Ministry of Social Policy
10. Ministry of Justice
11. Ministry of Energy
12. Ministry of Infrastructure
13. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources
14. Ministry of Digital Transformation
15. Ministry of Veterans Affairs

Please note that the composition of ministries and their names can change due to government restructuring or other factors. It is advisable to consult an official and up-to-date source for the latest information on the ministries in Ukraine.

consistent? + transparent?
US spelling?
correct???

Perplexity = with Sources
only gives me 2!!!

0. Homework: English names of German Ministries

Perplexity: Give me the official English names of all Federal Ministries in Germany

5 www sources: 2 Wikipedia, 3 with official stamp
The official English names of all Federal Ministries in Germany are as follows:

1. Federal Ministry of Finance
2. Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
3. Federal Foreign Office
4. Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
5. Federal Ministry of Justice
6. Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
7. Federal Ministry of **Defence**
8. Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
9. Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
10. Federal Ministry of Health
11. Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport
12. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
13. Federal Ministry of Education and Research
14. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development³
<https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/the-german-federal-government>

consistent? + transparent?
correct???

0. Homework: English names of US Ministries

Perplexity: Give me the official English names of all Federal Ministries in the US

5 www sources: 2 Wikipedia, 3 with official stamp

In the United States, federal ministries are referred to as "departments." The executive departments of the United States federal government are:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Department of Commerce
3. Department of Defense
4. Department of Education
5. Department of Energy
6. Department of Health and Human Services
7. Department of Homeland Security
8. Department of Housing and Urban Development
9. Department of the Interior
10. Department of Justice
11. Department of Labor
12. **Department of State**
13. Department of Transportation
14. Department of the Treasury
15. Department of Veterans Affairs

consistent? + transparent?
correct???

0. Homework: English names of UK Ministries

Perplexity: Give me the official English names of all Federal Ministries in the UK in the United Kingdom, federal ministries are referred to as "ministerial departments." The ministerial departments of the United Kingdom government include:

1. Prime Minister's Office
 2. Cabinet Office
 3. Home Office
 4. Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
 5. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
 6. Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
 7. Department for Education
 8. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
 9. Department for International Trade
 10. Department for Transport
 11. Department for Work and Pensions
 12. Department of Health and Social Care
 13. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
 14. Ministry of Justice
 15. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
 16. Department for International Development
 17. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
 18. Department for International Trade
 19. Department for Transport
 20. Department for Work and Pensions
- These lists are based on the official government websites and parliamentary sources 1,2,3,5

consistent? + transparent?
correct???

Ministry of Defence??

1. Introduction: Lernbrücke Chemnitz - Lwiw 2.0

lecture series
based on my own research specialisations
based on my own writings → read and ask the author
"exotic examples" for "awareness raising" (Brecht: Verfremdung?)

- Schmied, Josef (2012).
Standards of English in East Africa. In R. Hickey (ed.). *Standards of English. Codified Varieties around the World*. Cambridge: CUP, 229-255.
- Schmied, Josef (2010).
English as a lingua franca of the European Union? Debates, concepts, projects. In M. Albi-Mikasa, S. Braun, S. Kalina (eds.). *Dimensionen der Zweitsprachenforschung - Dimensions of Second Language Research*. Festschrift für Kurt Kohn. Tübingen: Narr Francke Verlag, 141-158.
- Schmied, Josef (fc.).
English in Kenya and Tanzania. Hickey NewCHEL [=Cambridge History of the English Language] Volume 6, Chapter 12.
Source Handbook = experts invite experts, +prestige
Albrecht, Sven (2021).
Current research on the linguistic features of Chinese English. *World Englishes* 40, 1– 20.

lecture style: text-based and interactive (close reading)!

1. Introduction: Repetition Standards

Language Standards are fluid, flexible and controversial concepts, can be applied to pronunciation, lexicon, discourse, grammar, syntax, punctuation (in descending flexibility)
Lexicon is easiest to handle, as it is least controversial in sociolinguistic contexts
express cultural contexts
Lexical standards are established by local → (trans-)national speech communities
no discussions about right or wrong,
only integrated in Speech Community or not

you need tools for data extraction from Social Media, which offer good and illustrative data, from images to phrases in context, usage, collocates

lexicon as system (?ontology)

- consistent?
- transparent?
- correct = real usage

2. Close reading of (Schmied fc.) article

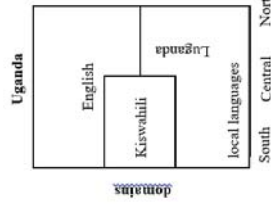
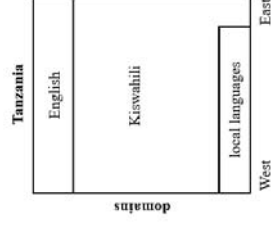
Background

historical

- colonial language policies in Kenya and Tanzania
- language policies after independence
- global influences (world-wide?)
in a triglossic language ecology

- local languages
- Kiswahili
- English

compare to Ukraine?



2. Close reading: culture: environment & interaction

Today all specific expressions and even images can be found easily on the internet. The following description adopts a **cultural keyword approach** by focussing on cultural fields where lexical innovation was obviously felt necessary by English users. Classical coherent lexical systems and narratives are **natural environments and human interaction** with them. For instance, in Kenya and Tanzania we find *baobab* (trees), *porini* (in the “bush” or rural areas) or farmers working on their *shamba* (field) with a *yembe* (hoe), cutting their way with a *panga* (machete) in the *miombo* (woodland) and fighting with *dawa* (medicine, pesticides) against *dudu(s)* (insects).

2. Close reading: culture: food & traditions

Related cultural practices include food and other traditions. People eat *uji* (maize porridge) and *ugali* (the staple maize dish from maize meal or flour, similar to *nshima* in Zambia and *pap* in South Africa or even *polenta* in Italy) or, under Indian influence, *bajia* (fried potato slices) and *pakora* (vegetable fritters), maybe with some *pilipili* or *piripiri* (hot pepper, pronunciation and writing indicate ethnic pronunciation variation). In Kenya, ethnic groups have **traditional dishes**, like *irio* (mashed potatoes with beans and maize) and *githeri* (a beans stew). On the coast, along lakes or rivers or near fishing projects with ponds, some *samaki* (fish) may be available, in other areas only dried *dagaa* (small fish, anchovies). As side dishes Kenyans and Tanzanians may choose between *sukuma wiki* (kale; literally “stretch the week”) and *mchicha* (spinach) to go with *mishkaki* (grilled meat skewers) or *mutura* (sausage) or the international loans from India *chapati/chapati* and *pilaw/pilau*. As a snack they may eat *ma(a)ndazi* (wheat cakes) or *vitumbua* (rice cakes) on the coast. They drink *pombe* (local beer) or *soda* (soft drink, like *minerals* in Southern Africa). Traditional Muslims (on the coast) occasionally wear a *k(h)anzu* (for men) or a *buibui* (for women), but much more wide-spread are *k(h)anga* and *kitenge*, traditional **cloths** for women. Differences are even discussed in newspapers (e.g. *The East African* 02/08/04) ...

2. Close reading: lexical innovation informal sector

juakali means literally “hot/fierce sun” and stands for “non-farming, usually non-taxpaying self-employment”. Thus, a *juakali* artisan/ craftsman is someone who works in the open, because he/she has no shop or garage; sometimes the difference between him/her and a *fundi* (craftsman) is not totally clear. In recent years, the term has come to be **used in a wider sense in negative contexts** (as in 19).

(19) So that’s what Daily Nation calls news? How about the 16 BBI resolutions from coast people? That’s juu kali journalism! (TwiNairobiSept21)

The most hotly discussed group in the informal sector are the *machinga*, thousands of hawkers, petty traders, whose aggressive selling behaviour is often perceived negatively, especially by city administrations, who try to relocate them from “unauthorised areas” on the busy city roads to a “machinga complex”, where they often find fewer customers. In 2019, #Mavoice #kazkazmusic even produced an official Machinga song in Kiswahili, which depicts the difficult condition quite well (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTdfiaYdigA>). The informal sector also includes *magedo* (“black market”), where cultural schemata are particularly rich and flexible, e.g. euphemistic food metaphors for *bribes* like *chai/tea* or *kitu kidogo/small thing*.

2. Close reading: lexical innovation informal sector

A particularly interesting case is *mitumba* (literally bundles, second-hand clothes), because the meaning has been extended **metaphorically** so that even politicians have been insulted as *mitumba* (as second-rate).

The oldest record may be a Ngugi wa Thiong’o poem on the IMF, i.e. International Mitumba (sic!) Foundation, which includes the lines given in (20).

(20) Yes, they make us buy the best they have already used
Second hand, they call it.

In Swahili they are called Mitumba.
Mitumba weapons.
Mitumba cars.
Mitumba clothes.
And now IMF dictates mitumba universities
To produce mitumba intellectuals.



Mitumba: Commerce or Charity? Part 1

Ungefähr 333.000.000 Ergebnisse (0.43 Sekunden)

Wissenschaftliche Artikel zu cultural keyword approach

Cultural keywords in discourse - Levisen - Zitiert von: 76
 From argument analysis to cultural keywords (and back - Rigotti - Zitiert von: 63

Cultural keywords are words around which whole discourses are organised. They are culturally revealing, difficult to translate and semantically diverse. They capture how speakers have paid attention to the worlds they live in and embody socially recognised ways of thinking and feeling.

John Benjamins
<https://benjamins.com> > catalog > pbns ⓘ
Cultural Keywords in Discourse - John Benjamins 2017

Informationen zu hervorgehobenen Snippets · Feedback geben

OSF
<https://osf.io> > preprints > psyarxiv > download ⓘ
A Computational Approach to Identifying Cultural ...
 von ZW Lim — Our approach is heavily influenced by work on "cultural keywords" carried out by Wierzbicka (1997), Goddard (2015), and others. A cultural keyword (or key word) ...

The most interesting lexical differences between English in Kenya and in Tanzania can be found in the **lexical innovations after independence**. Tanzanians "translated" the full spectrum of political terminology into their national language Kiswahili. They expanded the German colonial loan *boma* from traditional enclosure to military, police or administrative compound. They systematised the administrative hierarchy from *kijiji* (village) to *kata* (ward) to *tarafa* (division) to *wilaya* (district) and *mkoa* (region) and the political hierarchy from the village *baraza* (council) to the national *bunge* (parliament).

Whereas in the 1980s **different words** developed for the similar mass transport vehicle, *daladala* in Tanzania and *matatu* in Kenya (they indicated the price of one "dollar" and "three" shillings, respectively), this was no longer true in the 2000s, when the term *boda boda* for a motorbike "taxi" spread on both sides of the border, as can be seen from the many humorous and artistic images of *boda boda* on the internet today. *Boda boda* is even a successful television series in Kenya and television reports tell business success stories such as: "boda boda sector credited with changing lives of operators and dealers". Nowadays, the informal sector plays a similar role in Kenya and Tanzania and the communicative interaction is intensive, so it is not surprising that the **lexical adaptations to the socio-cognitive changes are the same**.

what is a cultural keyword approach

Sources

[PDF] A Computational Approach to Discovering...
 psyarxiv · 1

Cultural Keywords in Discourse | Edited by...
 benjamins · 2

Keywords as method - Marie Moran, 2021 - Sage...
 sagepub · 3

View 2 more

Answer

A cultural keyword approach is a method used to identify and analyze words that are central to a particular culture and are difficult to translate into other languages. These cultural keywords are significant because they reveal important aspects of a culture's values, beliefs, and social organization. The approach is influenced by the work of scholars such as Wierzbicka and Goddard, who have studied the concept of cultural keywords and their role in shaping discourse and thought across different cultures. This approach is often used in the fields of semantics, pragmatics, cultural discourse studies, and linguistic ethnography to better understand the unique ways in which different cultures conceptualize and express their experiences.

Share Rewrite

📄 🗑️ 📄 📄 ⋮

Which "typical" = culture-specific dishes are difficult to translate?



Ukrainian cuisine - Wikipedia

Besuchen >

replace by your photos because of copy right!

4. Projects: cultural traditions

KyivPost



Five things you must know about the Ukrainian Christmas - Jan. 06, 2014 | KyivPost

Most important Ukrainian holidays and their traditions 3 'weird' Ukrainian customs - Blog about tours to...

Besuchen >

4. Projects: translate Ukrainian Cuisine

difficult to translate? correct? you can do better!



5. Conclusions: take-home message?

a cultural keyword approach can be followed in most language communities

Lexemes from

- natural environments
 - food
 - people references, titles, occupations, etc.
 - clothes
 - traditions & customs
 - political institutions
- are usually easiest to find and not controversial

4. Project: Ukrainian loanwords in Oxford English Dictionary

OED | Oxford English Dictionary

Entries (4) | Meanings (4) | Quotations (21) | Historical Thesaurus (3)

SEARCH TERMS: []

Sort by: Frequency | Export results (.csv)

1 to 4 of 4 results

1927-	gley , n. A blue-grey soil or soil layer in which iron and manganese compounds are reduced through being waterlogged; also, such a soil mottled with brownish...
1846-	bandura , n. A large Ukrainian stringed instrument resembling an asymmetrical lute with many strings, held vertically and plucked like a zither. Cf. pandoura, n.
1905-	pysanka , n. An intricately decorated Easter egg of a type traditionally made in Poland and Ukraine, produced by drawing a pattern on an egg with wax and then...
1968-	gotch , n. ² Underpants; a pair of underpants.

DATE OF USE: Use (), First use ()

From: Year (YYYY) To: Year (YYYY)

PART OF SPEECH: Noun (4)

5. Conclusions: take-home message?

1. collect (frequent?) Ukrainian words in English texts that are underlined by the English (UK) spellchecker
2. identify most important Ukrainian traditions and find pics to illustrate and explain them

New methods of investigating innovations in the World English lexicon: The case of East Africa

and transfer to Ukraine!