

The quest for trilingualism: A case study of Kenyan communication forms



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THE QUEST FOR TRILINGUALISM: A CASE STUDY OF KENYAN COMMUNICATION FORMS

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GRIN Verlag Sep 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2003 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,0 (A), University of Hamburg (IAA), 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, comment: The paper deals with the development and use of different language forms in Kenya (i.e. English, Kiswahili, other ethnic languages, Engsh, Sheng). , abstract: When considering the linguistic situation in Kenya, it becomes quite obvious that it is anything but homogenous. Not only the large variety of different ethnic groups, but also British colonial influences have left their marks on this diverse region. With English as the official language and Kiswahili as the national language, it seems that the language situation in Kenya should be clear cut and well defined. Yet, the search for a national identity, feelings of inferiority towards the colonial language English and the strive for a better political and economic life in Kenya confront the population with many challenges and problems. Kenyan society is shaped by 40 to 60 African ethnic languages, such as Maasai or Dholuo. The main means of communication among these different ethnic groups has become Kiswahili. But Kiswahili itself has seven dialects and several sub-dialects. In addition, several European languages were left behind by the colonial era and Arabic and Asian merchants have brought their languages with them too. Thus, the language situation in Kenya is extremely complex and considered to be a 3 + 1 language country. That means that most Kenyan citizens speak three languages (plus or minus one): the mother tongue (in most cases an African ethnic language), Kiswahili the national language and most often also lingua franca, and English the official language and therefore...



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