

# Research of the language situation in Eastern Uganda

-Mainly About the Formation of Lukenyi language-

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## Background and objectives of my research

The purpose of this study is clarification of the language situation in Eastern Uganda through the study of Lukenyi language. Lukenyi language is a language which belongs to the eastern lacustrine Bantu languages (numbered J10 by Guthrie). According to the Bakenyi people, the speakers of this language, they are descendants of Baganda people who were put to the suspicion that they assassinated Kabaka Junju (King Junju) in his age, then scattered outside the kingdom to escape from suppression. What I would like to know is how their language was formed. It resembles the Lusoga language closely though their origin is Baganda people. Both of Luganda language and Lusoga language belongs to eastern lacustrine Bantus, and 60% of their basic vocabulary are common according to Ethnologue. One of the topics of my research is that the etymologies of a lot of words of Lukenyi language are unknown. For instance, "fish" is *ekyennyanja* in Luganda while *émperé* in Lamogi dialect of Lusoga. In Lukenyi, however, "fish" is *ekitóte*. Where did such a word come from? Moreover, it is a doubt why they are not assimilated completely into the ethnic groups at the migration destinations. Lukenyi language resembles Soga language, especially the Lamogi dialect closely. Nevertheless, the Lukenyi language is distinguished from the Lamogi dialect. It must also be a research topic to answer.



(figure.1 Nawampiti Village which I researched)



(figure.2 Nawampiti is a fishermen's village)



(figure.3 "fish" is called by several names

according to ethnic groups)