

## On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

### Report in 2008

—Swahili & Maasai, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 20 Nov. 2008 - 20 Apr. 2009—

Year of Enrollment: 2008

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

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### On My Swahili Language Training

#### I. My school life

I studied Swahili for about 2 months, in December 2008 and January 2009, at the language school of Anglican Churches of Kenya, in Nairobi. This school provides classes of every language spoken around Kenya like Maa, Luo, Turkana and so on. Many foreigners from Europe, Africa, Asia, America and Middle East, are studying languages there.

I studied at elementary course of Swahili with two classmates from Italy and Rwanda, who are volunteers in slum. Our teacher taught us about basic grammar, pronunciation and composition. After school from 4pm, I strolled the streets in Nairobi town with Kenyan friends every day. I visited their estates weekends and had opportunity to talk with many people in Swahili.

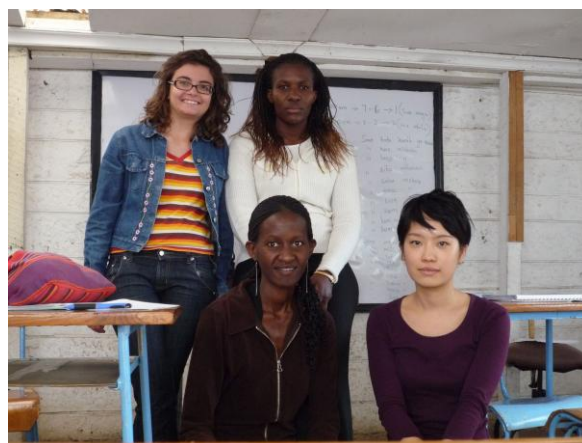
Nairobi is divided into about 80 areas, and each area has each own character. During my stay in Nairobi, I visited about 25 areas with my friends. I was attracted the most to those lively areas like Ngara, Kamukunji, Starehe and Pumwani. Many local artisans are making something every time there and many markets attract many locals. My aim is visiting every area in Nairobi and discovering different aspects of Nairobi.

#### II. Swahili

Swahili is spoken throughout East Africa like Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and also in some parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and so on. Swahili is “Lingua Franca” for communication everywhere people speak different mother tongue. The most standard Swahili can be heard along coastal areas and islands such as Zanzibar and Mombasa. But in Nairobi, like other inland areas



〈 ↑ my school, Anglican Churches〉



〈 ↑ my teacher, classmates and me〉

far away from coast, people speak Swahili in different way from people in coastal areas. For example, people from Nairobi would be surprised with your very traditional Swahili like “Excuse me” ” without doubt” and ”I beg you to” which are normal phrase in coastal areas. Besides, people from Nairobi often combine Swahili and English. Moreover they also use so-called sheng.



〈 ↑ my friends drink local beers in Kayole, Nairobi〉

Sheng is a slang which has been originating in Nairobi and influenced by many languages spoken there like Swahili, English, other ethnic languages such as Kikuyu, Luo, and other European language. Sheng is mainly used by the youth, but has spread to other generation, because they can hear sheng everywhere in Nairobi like in bus, popular music, radio and TV programme. I want to study the sheng more next time to have more smooth communication with people living life in town. Although most of people in Nairobi can speak English fluently, they use Swahili and sheng in everyday conversation because those are their favorite language.