

Jefwa G. Mweri, PhD

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Personal Information

- Date of birth: 05/09/ 1963
- Nationality: Kenyan
- Marital Status: Married

Personal profile:

- A well organized individual used to working under pressure.
- Self-confidence, good oral and written communication skills.
- Enjoys working with a wide range of people
- Self-motivated with an outgoing personality and the determination to succeed.
- Good presentation and a pleasant manner coupled with good social manners.
- Seeker of challenges and accomplishment of goals.

Current position

- Senior lecturer, Department of Kiswahili University of Nairobi (UON) & Director's Technical Assistant Kenyan Sign Language Research Project (KSLRP) U.O.N.

Courses Taught: Undergraduate

- Introduction to linguistics in Kiswahili
- Theory of syntax in Kiswahili
- Psycholinguistics in Kiswahili

Graduate:

- Research Methodology in Kiswahili
- Kiswahili Syntax
- Culture and human rights
- The rights of vulnerable groups

Education

- 2009 – Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics (PhD) U.O.N: Topic: **Register Variation: A Comparative Study of Planned and Unplanned Discourse in Kenyan Sign Language (KSL)**
- 1989 – 1999: MA (Linguistics) University of Nairobi.
Dissertation: Title: **NP movement in Kigiryama: A GB Approach**
- 1984 – 1987: B.Ed. (Hons.) Kenyatta University, Kenya. Majors: English & Literature.

Key qualifications:

- Over twenty three years University teaching experience in department Linguistics and Languages University of Nairobi. Specialising in teaching Linguistics in Kiswahili, **Kenyan Sign Language**, English, Communication Skills and Intercultural Communication
- Over sixteen years' research and administrative experience as the Technical Assistant to the Director Kenyan Sign Language Research Project (KSLRP) U.O.N.
- Specialist in communication skills, communication and Intercultural communication.

Key skills:

- Excellent knowledge of subject areas and ability to teach students by using various methods.
- Strong commitment in teaching and supervising graduate and undergraduate students.
- Expertise in advising the students and problem solving.
- Excellent teaching skills.
- Excellent knowledge of Linguistics, communication and intercultural communication.

Work Experience

- **September 2015- June 2016-** Visiting lecturer (On Sabbatical Leave) Pwani University department of educational Psychology and Special Needs:
Duties: Teaching, Assisted in writing a new Curriculum for Bachelor of Education Special needs (arts).
Advised post graduate students on their proposals. Both MA and PhD.
- **2011-present** Senior lecturer department of Kiswahili

Duties: -

- Supervising, instructing and evaluating students.
 - Preparing and using variety of instructional methods and audio-visual Aids
 - Conducting Research and disseminating findings through publications
 - Conducting assessment exams
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- **May 2002- July 2002:**
Technical training Coordinator and Deaf Education Trainer. US Peace Corps, Naivasha.
 - **Feb 1993 – 2011:**
Lecturer Department of Linguistics and Languages University of Nairobi
 - **Feb 1993 – to present:**
Part time lecturer United States International University (USIU)
 - **July 1996 – present:**
(Part time) Technical assistant to the director – Kenya Sign Language Research Project. A joint venture between Kenya National Association of the Deaf and the University of Nairobi.

Duties:

- Assisting the Director in managing the project activities.
- Participate in Scholarly activities within the scope of the research interests and professional concerns of the project, among many others.
- Participating in production OF KSL materials Production.

- **Feb. 1992 – Feb 1993:**

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Kiswahili. University of Nairobi

- **Sept 1992 – Feb 1993:**

Assistant lecturer, Department of Languages and Linguistics Egerton University – Njoro.

- **May – Sept 1993:**

Language Tutor Shanzu Teacher's Training College, Mombasa

- **June 1991 – May 1992:**

Voluntary work with Kenya National Association for the Deaf Kenya Sign Language Teaching.

- **1987 – 1989:**

Graduate Teacher - Allidina Visram High School, Mombasa

- **Jan 1983 - July 1983**

Untrained Teacher Mwandango High School – Taita Taveta

Course and conferences attended:

- Participant – Kenya Sign Language (KSL) courses (5 weeks) organised by Kenya National Association for the Deaf (KNAD) 1991
- Participant – Annual conference on African Linguistics University of Nairobi 1991
- Participant – East, Central and Southern Africa Seminar of the Deaf organised by Kenya National Association for the Deaf sponsored by Nordic Council of the Deaf at Blue Post Hotel Thika 7th – 10th December 1990.
- Participant – The 3rd East African Sign Language Seminar (1988).
- Participant – Kiswahili Language and Literature and modern thought conference held on 3rd- 5th October 2002. Nairobi Kenya.

International conferences attended:

- Participant – World Association of Sign language Interpreters (WASLI) conference in Istanbul Turkey 22-25 **July 2015**. Presented a paper entitled: The deaf as a vulnerable group:

when their rights are violated are interpreters equipped to deal with it?

- Participant – The inaugural conference of the World Association of Sign Language interpreters, Worcester, South Africa, November 2005.
- Participant – HIV/ AIDS Implementers conference, Kigali Rwanda. Sponsored by UNICEF. Facilitated session on vulnerable groups. 2007

Memberships:

- *2013 – Kenya Society for Deaf Children writer’s panel. Tasked with writing books and producing visual materials for teaching Kenyan Sign Language in schools for the deaf in Kenya.*
- Member – Kenya Sign Language Committee
- Member – World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) Scientific committee- to review conference papers for the 2nd WASLI international conference in Spain 13th- 15th July 2007
- Member – Center for Human Rights and Peace – UON

Dissertation and Publications:

1. BOOKS

- ***Mweri G.J. (2010) Utangulizi Wa Isimu. Nairobi Kenya Literature Bureau***
- Mweri, J.G. et al (2006). Introduction to Theory and Skills of Teaching Kenyan sign Language: A handbook for Teachers. Nairobi: Kenya Society of deaf Children
- *Mweri, G. J and the Kenya Sign Language research Team: Under the Kenya Sign Language (KSL) Educational support materials publications.*

-1997- Introduction to KSL Teacher’s manuals

-1997 - Teachers’ manual for KSL stage 1

- 1998- Problems of Deafness in Tertiary Education
- 1998 - Kenya Sign Language vocabulary pamphlets
 - My family.
 - Animals.
 - Time.

2. Chapters in books

- Jefwa G. Mweri et al. (2009). Sign Language Interpreter Training in Kenya. In Jemina Napier (Ed). *International Perspectives on Sign Language Interpreter Education*. Washington, DC. Gallaudet University Press
- Mweri, Jefwa G. (2006) 'Complexities and Challenges of interpretation in the third world: The Kenyan case.' In: McKee, Rachel M. Locker (ed): *Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters Worcester, South Africa*. October 31st - November 2nd. Coleford: McLean Publisher (2005) - pp. 134-140
- Akach P.A.O, Mweri G.J. (1992) *Kenya Sign Language Syllabus for: Elementary (stage I), Intermediate (stage II) and Advanced (stage III) Levels*.

3. Articles in referred journals

- Mweri, G.J. (2016). The acquisition of Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) and its significance as a mother tongue and medium of instruction in schools for the deaf in Kenya. *The University of Nairobi Journal of Language and Linguistics*, Vol. 5, 85-100.
- Mweri, G.J. (2015). Cohesion: Structuring Content through Textual Features in Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) Formal Discourse. *Linguistics and Literature Studies*, 3, 131 - 147. doi: 10.13189/lis.2015.030402.
- Mweri, G.J. (2014) "Diversity in Education; Respect for Language Minorities – the case for Kenyan sign Language as a medium of Instruction in schools for deaf in Kenya" in *Multilingualism and Education in Africa: The reality on the ground*. USA: Springer publishers.
- Jefwa G. Mweri (2010). "Signs and meaning, diversity in language use, equivalences and cultural untranslatability. In

Fredrick Kang'ethe Iraki, (Ed) Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa Vol. 2 No. 1 2010:21-35

- *Jefwa, G. J. (2009) Structural borrowing: The case of Kenyan sign Language (KSL) and Kiswahili Contact Signing. In Fredrick Kang'ethe Iraki, (Ed) Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa Vol. 1 (2) 2009: pp. 160-174.*

4. Edited work

- Mweri, G.J. (2010). Reaching and empowering deaf Kenyans through Sign Language. Your Body. Your Health: A KSLRP Reproductive Health Education Fact book
- *Mweri, G. J. (2001). Ed. Kenyan Sign Language Dictionary. (Reprinted Edition).*
- Akach, P.A.O, Hempe, L. and Mweri, G. (1992) Eds. *Sign Language and the Education of the Deaf*. Proceedings of the Third East African Sign Language seminar 24th -28th August 1992. Nairobi, Kenya.
- *Mweri, G. J. 1990 to date (Ed). The RSESA Newsletter: A Magazine published by the world Federation of the Deaf Regional secretariat for Eastern and Southern Africa (Covering over 14 countries in the region).*

5. Translations

- **On the shortlist for individual experts to provide consultancies for Kenya Marine and Fisheries research Institute(KMFRI) on Kiswahili translationa and editing scientific publications**
- **Translation of Safaricom's safety handbook: The answers in your hand: Mobile Phones, Masts and your Health. Majibu Mkononi Simu za Mkononi, Milingoti na Afya Yako (2013)**

- **Translation of Conservation and sustainable management of below the ground biodiversity in Kenya: A farmer report on the benchmark characteristics – Uhifadhi na usimamizi Endelevi wa Anuwai Iliyochini ya Ardhi Nchini Kenya: Repoti ya Wakulima wa Maeneo Teula yenye Sifa za Kipekee.**
- **Among others**

6. Forthcoming

- *There is interpretation and there is sign language interpretation: the distinct nature of sign language interpretation. Presented at the translation and interpretation in Africa in the 21st century conference February 18th -19th 2016 at the university of Nairobi.*
- *Sustainable development goals: reaching people through their mother tongue. Presented at the world mother tongue day 23rd-25th February, 2016- University of Nairobi.*
- *The acquisition of Kenyan sign language (KSL) and its significance as a mother tongue and medium of instruction in schools for the deaf in Kenya. Presented at the world mother tongue day, 2015- University of Nairobi.*
- *Poverty and Disability: The case of human rights violation of deaf people in Kenya. To be published by the Center for human rights and peace university of Nairobi.*
- *The deaf as a vulnerable group: when their rights are violated are interpreters equipped to deal with it? Presented in a WASLI conference 22-25 July 2015 Istanbul Turkey*

7. Book/papers for peer review

2016 – Off Beat Tools and Techniques for Effective Communication Skills. For Horizon Research Publishing, USA (HRPUB)

2016 – Code Switching in English Language Teaching Environment. For Horizon Research Publishing, USA (HRPUB)

2015 – Language, Identity, and Gender: A Study of Creole in the Caribbean. For Horizon Research Publishing corporation. USA (HRPUB)

2013 - Swahili Language Companion: A Progressive Grammar with Practical Exercises. By Fidele Mpiranya. For Routledge Publishing.

8. Dissertations/ Thesis

- 2009 – Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics (PhD) U.O.N: Topic: **Register Variation: A Comparative Study of Planned and Unplanned Discourse in Kenyan Sign Language (KSL)**
- 1999- MA (Linguistics) University of Nairobi.
Dissertation: Title: **NP movement in Kigiryama: A GB Approach**

9. Supervision of post graduate students:

PhD LEVEL

- Ondimu Kerubo Jacqueline (2015). Pragmatics of Social Networking Sites (SNS): A Study of Facebook and Twitter in Kenya
- Amateshe S. Margaret (2014). The English Syllable Structure of Children with cerebral palsy: A Morphophonological Perspective – On going
- Obuya Beatrice Gesare. (2014) Language Loss and Recovery in Bilingual Aphasia: A case study of Gender Differences in four (Ekegusii) Aphasic Speakers. On going
- Philemon Akach PhD (2010) **external assessor** for thesis entitled: Application of South African Sign Language (SASL) In a Bilingual- Bicultural Approach to Educating the Deaf. University of Orange free state South Africa
- Rabasa Onyango (2012) integration of internet in the teaching of Kiswahili at masters level in Kenyan Universities – on Going

MASTERS LEVEL

- Zinyuk Sara (2015- on going) The effect of early Alzheimer's disease on the language of a recovering aphasic: The study of Mr. I's language
- Evaline Kanini Kanyange (2015- on going) Suala la uadilifu katika nyimbo za bango za Joseph Ngala.
- David Rose Dama(2015- on going) Ulinganishaji na ulinganuzi wa majukumu ya mwanamke katikanyimbo teule za harusi za wagiriama na waswahili
- Kirabi Julius Mwangi(2015- on going) makosa ya kimfosintaksia katika lugha ya kimaongezi dhidi ya kanuni za lugha ya kiswahili sanifu katika wilaya ya kangema,jimbo la murang`a.
- Janet Mwende N. (2015- on going) Tofauti za kijinsia katika matumizi ya midahalo kwenye matini za barua pepe rasmi
- Onkoba Mary Kerubo (2014). An investigation of the relationship between reading comprehension practices and academic performance among class three pupils in Westlands district, Kenya.
- Leonida Kaula (2014). A comparative Analysis of English Source Text vs. Kiswahili Source Text in KSL Interpretation: A case study of T.V. News.
- Sr.TeresiaW.Waweru (2014). Matumizi ya Lugha Katika Kanisa Katoliki: Uchunguzi wa Ubadilishanaji Msimbo katika Mahubiri.
- Beatrice Akoth Kisakwah (2014).Ulinganisho wa sentensi Sahili za Kiswahili sanifu na za kisuba.
- Jael Akinyi Owala (2014). Mwingiliano Kati ya Kiswahili na Kidholuo na Mitazamo Yake Katika Matumizi ya Kiswahili: Kifani cha Kaunti ya Migori.
- Dorice kachipela (2014) Athari za sheng katika matokeo ya mtihani wa Kiswahili katika shule za msingi mtaa wa Kangemi.

- Florence Wairimu Njoroge (2014). Hali, hadhi na majukumu ya sheng Mjini Nakuru.
- Racheal Christine Wanjuru Koigi (2013). The linguistic challenges faced by Kenya sign Language interpreters of the proceedings of the Kenya National Assembly.
- Mosei Geoffrey momanyi. (2013)An interlanguage analysis of the Syntax of the written English of Deaf secondary School students in Kenya.
- Ondieki, Beatrice G. (2013) Dysgraphia in the language of two children of the Ensoko Primary School in Nyamira County.
- Keziah Njoroge Kiongo (2013) Cases of Dyslexia in the reading ability of class seven children at the Thogoto Primary School in kikuyu District Kenya
- Christine Akinyi Adhiambo (2012) The interface between syntax and pragmatics in Dholuo: a role and Reference Grammar Approach
- Ongaga Kemunto Evalyne (2012): Language Recovery in Bilingual Aphasia: A case study of two adult bilingual Aphasics based in nakuru Kenya – on going
- Millicent Adhiambo Ocholla (2011) A Semantic Analysis of Dholuo Spatial Prepositions using Image Schema Theory: A concept in Cognitive semantic theory.
- Karithi, Francis M. (2010) Mikakati ya Upole Katika Matumizi ya Lugha ya Vijana
- Elizabeth Wanjiru Muriuki (2009). Executive masters in Organisational development (EMOD) thesis title: *The extent of use and the implication of translating materials from spoken Languages to Kenya Sign Language (KSL): A case study of the deaf community in Kenya.* **USIU**
- Elizabeth Jumwa (2009) MA thesis title: *Noun Derivation in Kigiryama using the word formation in Generative Grammar theory and the extended Level ordering hypothesis.* UON

- King'ola, M. Patricia (2008) MA thesis entitled: *Gender stereotyping as portrayed in the language of Kenyan print and electronic media*. UON.
- Odhiambo, J.M. (2006) MA thesis entitled: *Ergativity in Dholuo: a Comparative Study With Shilluk and Pari*. UON.
- Mweni, G. Kumbatha (1998) MA thesis entitled: "Kigiryama Morphophonemics in a Natural Generative Framework"

10. ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & ABSTRACTS:

- (i) Forthcoming (Accepted): The Deaf as a vulnerable group: When their human rights are violated are interpreters equipped to deal with it? Istanbul Turkey (July 22nd - 25th 2015)
- (ii) Poverty and Disability: The case of human rights violation of Deaf people in Kenya. A paper presented at the conference on Poverty and Human Rights – At Lake Naivasha County Club. September 28th- 30th 2011.
- (iii) Diversity in Education: Respect for Language Minorities - the case for Kenyan Sign Language as a medium of instruction in Schools for the Deaf in Kenya. A paper presented at the international conference on Multilingualism and education – Kenyatta University. July 22nd -23rd 2010.
- (iv) "Technology for everyday life activities for the deaf in Kenya," A paper jointly presented with Washington Akaranga at the ITU world telecommunication and information society day. 17th May 2008
- (v) "Complexities and challenges in interpretation in third world countries." A paper presented at the first International Conference for Sign Language Interpreters. 31st -2nd November 2005, Worcester, South Africa.
- (vi) "Endophoric Expressions and Coherence in Kenyan Sign Language." A paper presented at a seminar at the University of Nairobi November 2005.
- (vii) *Sign Language: The Myth and Realities: a case of Kenya Sign Language* (A paper Presented at a Seminar at the Department of Linguistics and African Studies – University of Nairobi (2003)

- (viii) *"Kenyan Sign Language: A comparative analysis of planned and unplanned discourse."* Abstract sent to the 4th world congress on African linguistics (WOCAL 4) and the 34th annual conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 34) June 17-22, 2003. Accepted.
- (ix) *"Structural borrowing: the case of Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) and Kiswahili contact Signing."* A paper presented at: The Kiswahili Language and literature and modern thought conference held from 3rd-5th October 2002.

11. AWARDS

June 2015- April 2016: \$32,000- contract from Ministry of Health Kenya to train selected health workers in Kenyan Sign Language.

ROLE: Project manager

September 2012 –September 2013: USD 41176 – contract from The National council for people with Disabilities (NCPWD) for training selected people in KSL basic and advanced certificates.

ROLE: Project manager

September 2011 – May 2012: USD 85,000 – Contract from the Truth Justice and Reconciliation commission (TJRC) for the provision of Interpretation services.

ROLE: Project manager

September 2011- September 2012: USD 29,000 – contract from The National council for people with Disabilities (NCPWD) for training selected people in KSL basic and advanced certificates.

ROLE: Project manager

September 2008 – June 2010 – USD 102, 515 from Family Health International (FHI) through the APHIA II Coast project for an HIV and AIDS Prevention Program for Deaf School going Youth along the Kenyan Coast through Kenya Sign Language.

ROLE Project Manager

2006 March – 2007

USD 28,000 from USAID through Handicap International (HI) for an HIV and AIDS prevention Program for selected Schools along the Kenyan Coast.

ROLE Project Manager

2000 – USD 15,000 from FORD foundation for the editing and re-printing of the Kenya Sign Language Dictionary.

ROLE Principal Editor

2003 USD 10000 form ABILIS Foundation – Finland for training Deaf people on KSL teaching Methodology.

ROLE Project coordinator

2003 USD 5000 from Family Health International (FHI) to train selected deaf and hearing people on basic HIV and AIDS counselling skills.

ROLE Project coordinator

HOBBIES:

Football
Table Tennis
Drama and Cultural Activities

REFEREES:

1. Prof. D. Okoth Okombo.
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2. Prof. J. H. P. Kahindi.
Pwani University
P.O. Box 195-80108,
Kilifi.
Email: jkahindi@pu.ac.ke

3. Prof. John Hamu Habwe

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