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# **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

# FRENCH LOANWORDS AND THEIR AREAS OF INFLUENCE IN KIHAVU LANGUANGE

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# ABSTRACT

Kihavu, like many other languages in contact, has adopted foreign words to meet the needs of its speakers' daily life vocabulary and activities. This work discusses and analyses how and why French loanwords have been distributed to specific areas of influence in the nominal class system of Kihavu. The result is thatsome alien words have been allocated to Kihavu noun class systemrather than other parts of speech. Therefore, they have acquired kihavu native words morphology by means of addition or reduction of suffixes prefixes or affixes. The data were collected from bilingual kihavu native speakers'conversations. To deal with this socio-linguistic survey, four sections have been developed. The introduction presents the background, aim, hypotheses, research methodology, justification, and scope of the research. Chapter one deals with the literal frame and socio-linguistic presentation of Kihavu language. Chapter two presents the allocation of loanwords per areas of influence. The last section gives the conclusion.

Key words: Loanwords, Areas of Influence, Donor Language, Kihavu Language, Buhavu.

# INTRODUCTION

Kihavu language has hosted a wide range of words from foreign languages over many years from the time it came into contact with other languages. This paper researches on French loanwords and their areas of influence in Kihavu language. French has lent more words to Kihavu than any other foreign language. Thus, this work will mainly deal with loanwords from French. This language has exercised a remarkable influence on Kihavu lexicon. The main focus in this study is to research why and how loanwords from French have been allocated to different domains of the Bahavu's daily life and have been adapted to fit the nominal class system of Kihavu. A great number of French loanwords exist in Kihavu and this clearly indicates the real need to supplement the Kihavu lexicon. Some areas are very likely to absorb more loanwords than others. This study aims to research key areas which have hosted foreign words and find out why and how these words fit in the Kihavu noun class system. Some specific areas have adopted more French words to cope with the reality of culture contact. The distribution of loanwords in Kihavu has obeyed the noun class system. Thus, loanwords have been allocated to nominal classes. It is curious that some noun classes have been more hospitable than others. Apart from the general introduction and general conclusion, this study contains two chapters. The introduction introduces the background of the research. It presents the aim, hypotheses, research methodology, justification and the scope of the research. Chapter one deals with the literature frame and socio-linguistic presentation of Kihavu language.

\**Corresponding author:* Moïse BYAMUNGU KALEGAMA, Department of Didactics of English and African Culture, Idjwi Teacher's Training College, South-Kivu/D.R.CONGO. Chapter two presents the allocation of loanwords in the areas of influence in Kihavu. The last section gives the conclusion of this work.

#### **2. SOME CONCEPTS**

2.1. Loanword: A loanword is a word borrowed from another language, usually called donor language. The speaker of the borrowing language, also called recipient/ beneficiary language, partially or totally integrates a foreign word in his or her own language system. This depends on the degree of language competence the speaker has. Danesi (1985:110-113) states that the whole process of the adoption of a loanword by a native is what some linguists call "nativization". A study of Canadian Italian has shown that the receiving language (Italian) has nativized the words of the source language (English) in its phonological, syntactic, and morphological system. He comments as follows: As the loanwords pass into general currency among the members of the immigrant they community, are adjusted unconsciously and systematically to the pronunciation and grammatical patterns of the receiving language. This process is referred to generally as nativization. Simply put, the foreign words are not accepted in their original shape, but rather restructured to conform to the articulatory and grammatical features of the receiving language whence they become indistinguishable from native words, often displacing native items with the same referents [1]. In Webster's Dictionary, a loanword is defined as "a word taken from another language and at least partially or completely naturalized." It is the most frequent sociolinguistic phenomenon which results from the contact of two languages [3, 5]. Hockett (1958:410, 411) gives six reasons for lexical borrowing: He finds it a privilege to use a foreign word, Needfilling of objects, persons, places, concepts, institutions. Pernicious homonyms; Low frequency of words: use of a foreign word to replace a regional or dialectal form.

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Tendency of affective words: need for synonyms in relation to talking, cooking, sleeping, beating. Cacophemisms: need for euphemisms. [3]. Trask (1999: 175, 176) explains that there are several motivations for borrowing a word but he comments on two major ones: need and prestige [4,5].

**2.2. Loanwords areas of influence:** In this work "areas of influence" mean key activities which have adopted loanwords to fill the lexical gaps. This is the primary purpose of borrowing alien words [4].

**2.3. Kihavu Language and Buhavu area:** Kihavu language is spoken inBuhavu area, an ancient name for idjwi and kalehe territories together located in the Eastern D.R.Congo. Idjwi territory got separated from Kalehe in 1974 and became an independent territory. Despite this separation, both territories kept the same culture and language. However, it is worth mentioning that people dwelling in the western zone of kalehe speak dialects which are slightly different from kihavu. This is the case of Batembo from Bunyakiri and Bahunde from Minova (Buhunde).Guthrie (1975:12) classifies Kihavu as a Bantu language in the linguistic zone D52 and the Tervuren group (Belgium) as a Bantu language in zone J52 (De Blois, 1970:89). Nurse and Philippson (2003:504) combined both classifications and labeled the language JD52 [2, 6,8]

### **3. LOANWORDS AND THEIR AREAS OF INFUENCE**

**Introductory notes:** Loanwords are found in very specific areas: commerce, technology, transport, agriculture, education, army, politics, administration, clothing, religion, foodstuff, health, sports, just to mention a few.

**3.1 Agriculture and livestock:** Loanwords in this area mainly denote industrial crops, modern agricultural and livestock techniques which have been introduced in Kalehe and Idjwi territories since the colonial period. All the loanwords presented below did not exist in Kihavu before the arrival of Europeans. With regard to traditional agriculture and livestock, there is a wide range of vocabulary showing various traditional techniques. For example, there is a vast lexical field of words which denote the concept of crops, goat, and fish, because these realities were highly developed in Buhavu. Words related to imported plants and modern agricultural tools used in farming and cattle breeding were borrowed from foreign languages.

#### Examples:

Singular	Plural	Source word	* English
evoka	ama voka	avocat	avocado
ebinateri	ebinateri	pyrèthre	pyrethrum
edivayi	ama divayi	vin	wine
akarote	amakarote	carrote	carrot
ekinini	ibinini	quinine	quinine
enanasi	amananasi	ananas	pineapple
entusi	entusi	eucalyptus	eucalyptus
epapayi	amapapayi	papaye	papaya
epuruni	amapuruni	prune	plum
epwavuro	ama pwavuro	poivron	pepper
eshu	amashu	chou	cabbage
esipure	amasipure	cyprès	cypress
esizeni	ama sizeni	season	season
esoya	amsoya	soya	soyabean
entomate	amatomate	tomate	tomato

**3.2 Building:** Loanwords in this area comprise those denoting construction materials, parts of a house, and people involved in a house construction. Major traditional housing materials were made of thatch of sorghum and maize, straw, mud, and branches of trees. With the new techniques of building, many new terms were introduced into the daily vocabulary of Bahavu.

# **Examples:**

Singular	Plural	Source word*	English
anegise	ama anegise	annexe	annex
ebeto	ama beto	béton	concrete
ebido	amabido	bidon	can
eburo	amaburo	bolt	boulon
edushe	ama dushe	douche	bath-room
etaje	ama etaje	étage	floor
ifondasiyo	amafondasiya	o foundation	foundation
igraviye	ama garaviye	gravier	gravel
esalo	amasalo	salon	sitting-room
esharupante	sharupante	charpente	structure
isharupante	amasharupan	te charpente	frames
esima	amasima	ciment	cement
etibe	amatibe	tube	tube
itiyo	amatiyo	tuyau	pipe/tube
ekaro	amakaro	carreau	pane, tile
kole	za kole	colle	glue
amasitike	amasitike	mastic	putty
enivo	amanivo	niveau	level
pulafo	amapulafo	plafond	ceiling
epulansheri		i planche de riv	
erobine	amarobine	robinet	tap

**3.3 Calendar and telling the time:** The area of calendar is composed of words denoting religious festivals and public holidays. Before the colonial period, Bahavu have their own ways of designating the days of the week, the months of the year (lunar system), and the seasons. With the contact of foreigners, there was a quick adoption of the Western/Catholic way of counting the days, the months, and the year.

# **Examples:**

Loanword Adiventu	Source word Advent	* English Advent
Asensiyo	Ascension	Ascension
obonane	bonne année	New Year first day(party)
dimanshe	dimanche	Sunday
elipandasi	Independence	Independence
emidi	midi	noon
eminwi	minuit	midnight
Noweri	Noël	Christmas
Paska	Pâque(s)	Easter
Pendekosite	Pendecoste	Pententecost

**3.4 Clothing:** Before the arrival of Arabs and Europeans, traditional Bahavu used to wear fine hides of animals and barks of trees. Men regarded their wives with respect in the matter of clothing. For example, a husband would make a cloth out of fine animal hide (sheep or cow hide) while he himself would cover the nudity with a tree bark. Most loanwords denoting clothing, including foot and head wear, have been fully adapted to morphological and phonological language system of Kihavu.

# **Examples:**

Singular	Plural	Source wo	rd*	English
ebuluze	amabuluze	blouse		blouse
ejile	ama jile	gilet		waistcoat
ijipo	amajipo	jupon		skirt/petticoat
akaruvanti	amakaruvanti	cravate		tie
akaleso	amakaleso	caleçon		underwear
ekositime	amakositime	costume	suit	
omutayeri	abatayeri	tailleur	tailor	

**3.5 Commerce and counting:** The area of commerce and the modern auxiliaries of trade (banking, advertising, insurance, warehousing, transport, and industry) were non-existent in Buhavu area. Before commercial ties with the external world, there existed in Buhavu the system of barter, whereby goods were exchanged against other goods. Therefore loanwords denoting commerce, banking, marketing, and taxation were introduced when the first trading centres started to operate in DRC.

#### **Examples:**

Singular egishe	Plural amagishe	Source word* guichet	English counter/desk
egitanse	ebigitanse	quittance	receipt
guterete ebanki eboredero obutike eduwane eduzeni efagitire oluranga egarame ekilo	traîter amabanki amaboredero amabutike amaduwane amaduzeni amafagitire efuranga magarama ehilo	to deal with banque bordereau boutique douzaine facture francs gramme kilo	bank deposit bank slip shop custom office dozen bill francs/ money gramme kilograme
epatante	amapatante	patente	license
eresi	amaresi	reçu	receipt
isheke	amasheke	chèque	cheque
etagise ekese ekomisiyo	amatagise amakese ekomisiyo	taxe caisse commission	tax cash desk/bottle box commission
kuverise umukontabule everisema	verser abakontabule everisema	comptable versement	to deposit accountant bank deposit

**3.6 Education:** This area is the most complex one since it absorbed foreign words directly linked with educational systems from different countries, especially French and English speaking countries. This area counts more false friends than any other area. Kihavu borrowed loanwords to fill the gap for its vocabulary denoting school materials, documents, school administration, and facilities.

Examples: Singular	Plural	Source word*	English
		and the second s	
agarafeze	amagarafeze	agrafeuse	stapler
ajenda	amajenda	agenda	diary
atashe	amatashe	attache	clip
edipolome	amadipolome	diplôme	certificate/diploma
eforimilere	ama forimilere	formulaire	form
ebibliyoteke	ama bibliyoteke	bibliothèque	library
ebileti	amabileti	bulletin	transcript
ebiro	amabiro	bureau	office
eburuse	amaburuse	bourse	scholarship
efishi	amafishi	fiche	form
ikaye	amakaye	cahier	notebook
ekereyo	amakereyo	crayon	pencil
einiforume	ama iniforome	uniforme	uniform
inimero	amanimero	numéro	number
ilati	amalati	latte	ruler
isagoshi	amasakoshi	sacoche	school bag
eprimere	ama pirimere	primaire	primary
esegondere	ama segondere	secondaire	secondary
etabulo	amatabulo tableat	uboard	
omudiregiteri	abadiregiteri	directeur	principal

**3.7 Foodstuff and cooking:** Loanwords classified under this category refer to modern culinary vocabulary for hard and soft food, which were almost non-existent in ancient DRC. Traditional staples comprised beans, sweet potatoes, bananas, cassava, sorgum paste, and vegetables. Modern habits of eating were acquired from foreigners who brought in external food stuff such as rice, cakes, jam, sweets, cream, bread, vegetable oil.

# **Examples:**

Singular	Plural	Source w	ord* English
avoka	ama voka	avocat	avocado
ebenyi	ama benyi	beignet	fritter
ekiisikwiti	ibisikwiti	biscuit	biscuit
embombo	embombo	bonbon	sweets
efarine	amafarini	farine	farine
egato	ama gato	gâteau	cake
eji	amaji	jus	juice
esupu		soupe	soup
evinegere		vinaigre	vinegar
amayoneze		mayonnai.	se mayonnaise
ruwiri	a <b></b> -	l'huile	cooking oil
eshokola	ama shokola	chocolat	chocolate
esoya/ja	esoya	soya/ja	soya beans

**3.8. Health:** The area of health comprises mainly loanwords denoting hospital facilities, medical equipment, drugs, "modern diseases", medical personnel.

# **Examples:**

# Singular Plural Source word\* English

Apeti		appétit	appetite
alikol	ama alikol	alcool	alcohol
aside	amaside	acide	acid
ediyabete	ama diyabeti	diabète	diabetes
foromasiyo	ama forumasi	o pharmacie	pharmarcy
ebande	amabande	bande	adhesive tape
ebitaro	ebitaro	hospital	hospital
ekinini	ebinini	quinine	tablet
iserumu	ama serumu	serum	serum
etabuliye	amatabuliye	tablier	nurse dress
kanseri	ama kanseri	cancer cancer	
paralize		paralyse	paralysis
amaritizime a	amarimatisime .	<i>rhumatisme</i> rhe	umatism
eseriviyete al	ma seriviyete se	rviette towel, n	apkin (AmE)
esida		SIDA	AIDS
etifoyide	amatifoyide	typhoide	typhoid
	abadogiteri doci abafaroma infiri		

#### 3.9. Household

A traditional hut consisted of very rudimentary household furniture and appliances, which sometimes included one or more mats (used as a carpet), sisal or wooden chairs, clay pots, wooden plates. Loanwords under this category denote household appliances, furniture, and cutlery, which were brought in Rwanda by foreigners.

#### Examples:

Singular	Plural	Source word*	English
ebase	ama base bas	sin t	basin
efrigo	amafrigo	frigo	fridge
efoteyi	ama foteyi	fauteuil	armchair
eguse	amaguse	coussin	cushion
epano	amapano	pan	frying pan
epasi	amapasi	fer à repasser	iron
epulato	amapulato	plateau	tray
eradiyo	amaradiyo	radio	radio
eresho	amaresho	rechaud	stove
erido	ama rido	rideau	curtain
esizo	amasizo	ciseaux	scissors
esutase	amasutase	sous-tasse	saucer
etabure	amatabure	tabouret	stool
etapi	amatapi	tapis	carpet
itasi	amatasi	tasse	cup
etelefone	ama telefone	telephone	telephone
	amateleviziyotele	evision t	elevision

#### 3.10 Military and police

This area comprises all non-civilian related borrowed loanwords denoting the army, the police, military equipment, ranks, and ammunition. Traditionally, the king's army had rudimentary armour. The most used weapons consisted of spears, shields, bows, and arrows.

<b>Examples:</b>			
Singular Enketi	Plural ama nketi	Source word* enquête	English investigation
Ebirigade	za burigade	brigade	police station
ipisitole	ama pisitole	pistolet	pistol
erasiyo	amarasiyo	ration	ratio
erevoluveri	za revoluveri	revolver	revolver
emanda	emanda	mandat	warrant
omuwopeji	abawopeji	OPJ Judiciary	Police Officer
epeve	ama peve	pv (procès-verbal)	statement
omudemobe	abademobe	démobilisé	war veteran
omukaporali	abakaporali	caporal	corporal
omukoloneri	abakoloneri	colonel	colonel
omuliyetena	abaliyetena	lieutenant	lieutenant
umupolisi	abapolisi	police	policeman
umurukiri	abarukiri	recrue	recruit

**3.11.Music:** Besides Havu traditional music, liturgy music came alongside Christianity. In the long run, other types of music (classical, reggae, Congolese music) were introduced.

#### **Examples:** Singular Plural Source word English ebafule ama bafure baffle amplifier ebaze ama baze bass bass ekidaari guitar guitar ehigitare ekonsere amakonsere concert concert ekorale amakorale chorale choir enote amanote note musical note ama piyano epiyano piano piano ekabule ama kabule cable cable emikoro ama mikoro micro microphone esentetizere ama sentetizere synthétiseur syndissertationer esolfeje ama solfeje solfège rudiments of music soprano soprano soprano soprano emiziki omuziki musique music

**3.12.** Politics and administration: Loanwords denoting politics and administration were chiefly introduced under the Belgian colonial rule. Words referring to territorial administrative entities have been changed over and over again

for the last four decades, as political regimes in D.R.Congo were unstable.

Examples:			
Singular enketi eguverinema ekomine	<b>Plural</b> amanketi amaguverinei amakomine	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	investigation
eteritware emitingi	ama porovel amasegitere amaselire ama sheferi ama teritwar emitingi	nsi province segiteri cellule chefferie e territoireten meeting	rritory meeting/lies
omudepiteab omuguverine omuminisitre omunyapolit omuprezida omushefu	e abaprokirere adepite eri abaguverine eabaminisitre n ike abanyapoli abaprezida abashefu che abasivile civi	depute ri gouverneu ninister tikepoliticien president f chief	Member of Parliame r governor minister

**3.13. Religion:** This category represents a wide range of loanwords from Christendom as well as the Moslem world. Most of these loanwords have as their primary source, languages such as Latin, Greek, Hebrew or Arabic. They came into Kihavu via French, English, and Kiswahili. Catholic and Protestant missionaries came from Europe and the USA. Each religion used the vocabulary which fits its creed, background, and its way of interpreting the Bible, or else the Quoran. Loanwords of this category may help us to understand how, when, and why these missionaries or Moslems came to Buhavu territory.

Singular Plu	ral Source word*	English	
Ame	ba ame	amen (Hebrew)	amen
olutari	ama lutari	alta (Latin)	altar
eBibiliya	ama Bibiliya	Biblos (Greek)	Bible
akatekisimu	ama katigisimu	catéchisme (French)	catechisn
egihenama		Gey-Hennom (Hebrew)	hell
aleluya	ba aleluya	Hallelu-Jah (Hebrew) Pr	aise the Lord
eparadizo		paradeios (Greek)	paradise
epenetensiya	ama penitensiya	penitentia (Latin)	penance
esabato	amasabato	Chabbat (Hebrew)	rest
eshapule	amashapule	chapelet (French)	rosary
etalanta	amatalanta talent	(French)	talent
ekeleziya	ama ekeleziya	ecclesia (Greek) church	
emisa	emisa	misus (Latin)	mass
obukarisitiya		eucharistie (Greek)	eucharist
obubatizo	imibatizo	baptizo (Greek)	baptism
emedaye	ama medaye	médaille (French) medal	
omudiyakere	abadiyakere	diakonos (Greek)	deacon
omukrisu	abakrisu	Kristos (Greek) Ch	ristian
omupadiri	abapadiri	padre (Italian)	priest
omupagani	abapapagani	paganus (Latin) paga	n
omupasiteri	abapasiteri pasteur	(French)	pastor

**3.14. Technology:** This area counts more loanwords than any other area. They refer to modern means of transport, automobile industry, mechanics, electricity, plumbing, office supplies, stationery, computer science, broadcasting, telecommunication, etc., which did not exist in the country before the contact with the external world. Before any external contact, Bahavu people used to carry people, goods and some domestic animals on their head, the shoulders, or the back. On rivers and waterways, they especially used canoes for transport. Therefore, from the time they came into contact with Arabs and Europeans a wide range of foreign words denoting technology and transport were introduced.

#### Examples:

amburiyaje	ama mburiyaje	embrayage	gear
e ampule	amampule	ampoule	bulb
ekara	ama ekara	écran	screen
efotokopi	amafotokopi	photocopie	copy
ebuji	amabuji	bougie	spark plug/candle
efire	mafire	frein	brake
efizibule	ama fizibule	fusible	fuse
efoto	amafoto	photo	photograph
ekabule	ama kabule	cable	cable
ekamiyo	amakamiyo	camion	lorry
ekaro	ama karo	carreau	pane
akaroseri	ama karoseri	carrosserie	body work
ekilometero	ama kilometero	kilomètre	kilometre
ekontere	ama konteri	compteur	meter
amashini	amashini	machine	machine
emetere	ama metero	mètre	metre
omoteri	emyoteri	moteur	engine
epiyese	amapiyese	pièce	spare parts
epine	amapine	pneu	wheel/tyre
ipurize	amapurize	prise plug	
eshiriri	amashiriri	serrure	lock
eshamburiyeri	amashamburayeri chambre à air air chamber		
etiyo	amatiyo	tuyau pipe	
etoroshi	amatoroshi	torche	torch
ekitensi	ebitensi	vitesse	speed
evola	amavola	volantsteering-wheel	
ekasike	ama kasike	casquehelmet	
akateripalare	amakateripilare	caterpillar caterpillar tractor	
emoto	ama moto	moto motorcycle	
oridinatere	ama orudinateri ordinateur	computer	
eparapurize	ama paraburize	pare-brisewind-screen	
eremoruke	ama remoruke	remorquetrailer	
etibe	amatibe tubetube		
umushoferi	abashoferi chauffeur driver		

**Observations:** In view of the above sample words per area of influence, the areas of technologyand religion have the highest rate of loanwords occurrence. This can be explained by the fact that modern technology realities were not developed in Buhavu area before it came into contact with other countries. Therefore, technology terminologies were borrowed from major European languages to cope with the new realities in Buhavu territory. Most religious terminologies originally came from Hebrew (a Semitic language which was spoken by the early Christians) through some European languages. French and English also borrowed those words from Hebrew via Greek and Latin. Many Christian names originated from Palestine, spread over Europe, the new world (America), Oceania, Africa, and other parts of Asia [3,4].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The coexistence of French and Kihavu has resulted in various sociolinguistic aspects. One of the sociolinguistic phenomena observed in this coexistence is the influx of French loanwords in Kihavu.

The predominant occurrence of French loanwords testifies that French lent to Kihavu more words than any other language. This is understandable because of the historical ties between DRC and two European French-speaking countries: Belgium and France. DRC got independence from the colonial master, Belgium, on 30 July 1960, and continued its diplomatic ties it had enjoyed during the colonial era.

The study results prove that the most borrowed parts of speech are nouns.In all languages, nouns and verbs express more concrete realities than adjectives, articles, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. The allocation of loanwords in Kihavu with its many facets has enriched the noun class system of Kihavu. The vocabulary has been increased so as to cope with modern realities. This survey does not pretend to have exhausted all the aspects of loanword allocation or adaptation in Kihavu. Only sample French loanwords have been addressed, especially nouns. It is rather a work that has been initiated for further studies in order to do more research in the area of sociolinguistics in a broader perspective and come up with more findings. Therefore, further studies may still be conducted about other parts of speech such as adjectives, pronouns, verbs, about other donor languages like English and Swahili loanwords in kihavu, translingual loanwords in kihavu, deceptive cognate loanwords in kihavu, morpho-semantic analysis of augments in kihavu, other linguistic aspects like phonology and syntax of loanwords.

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