

Appendix 3A. Adult Similarities

In several places in the text I have made comparisons between children and adults. The adult comparison set comes from the recordings of the children, and thus are comprised mostly of child-directed speech. No other source of spoken Nairobi data is available to me. An implicit assumption that I have made is that the data of the adults forms a homogeneous set, i.e., there are no significant differences from the speech of one adult to the other. I attempt here to justify that assumption.

The decision to make use of adult utterances as a comparison set was made fairly late in the data collection process, and so a full validation of their data is not possible. Ideally, accent ratings could have been conducted with native speaker judges, but there are no independent native speakers available to me. The alternative is a gross, statistical comparison of the composition of the speech of the various adults.

The adults used as the comparison group were the adults who spoke to the children in this study. All the three speakers are native speakers of Nairobi Swahili. All three were born in Nairobi and were raised in Nairobi. All three went to public primary and secondary schools, and none received any university education. They all grew up in low-income, communal areas, as is typical in Nairobi. While not even Nairobi Swahili is a unified dialect, there are significant similarities in the language of the three adults.

I have attempted to quantify these similarities. I calculated the composition of the adults' speech with respect to indicative, subjunctive and

imperative clauses. This is presented below in table 1.¹ Additionally, I calculated the proportion of [-SA] clauses, [-T] clauses and Bare stems. I then calculated the proportions of applicative morphemes, causative morphemes and passive morphemes, as well as copulas. The correlation coefficients for each data set were calculated (table 2), and they were over 95% for each column.

Table 3A.1 Adult statistics from various files

	Adult from Haw files	Adult from Mus files	Adult from Fau and Has files
Verbal Utterances	1095	1715	640
Indicative	45% (490)	48% (822)	47% (302)
Subjunctive	25% (271)	13% (227)	17% (110)
Imperative	28% (311)	34% (581)	28% (181)
[-SA]	1% (7)	4% (33)	2% (7)
[-T]	0% (1)	1% (8)	0% (1)
Bare Stem	0% (1)	0% (1)	0% (1)
applicative	6% (30)	1% (5)	9% (28)
causative	1% (5)	3% (28)	3% (8)
passive	13% (64)	1% (7)	8% (23)
copula	13% (137)	8% (137)	20% (128)
bare noun	0	0	0

¹ Percentages for indicative, subjunctive and imperative are out of all verbal utterances. Percentages for all other categories are out of all indicative utterances.

Table 3A.2 Correlation Coefficients for adults

	HAW	MUS	FAU/HAS
HAW	1		
MUS	0.958048	1	
FAU/HAS	0.972979	0.961804	1

The conclusion is that with respect to these salient aspects of Swahili, the adults in this corpus speak a dialect of Swahili that is highly correlated.

This certainly is not the ideal measure of dialectal homogeneity, but is an indication that the input to the children is similar.