CAPReX: A spring board to the skies

By
Saudah Namyalo – Makerere University
Outline of the presentation

- The purpose of the CAPREx fellowship
- The objectives of the fellowship
- The output during the fellowship
- The outcomes of the fellowship
- Conclusion(s)
About the CAPREx fellowship

- There were two projects in one fellowship
  - The documentation and description of Luyaaeye; a youth urban language variety in Kampala
  - Analysing the information structures in Luganda
The objectives

- To provide a strong theoretical base for the analysis of youth urban varieties in Uganda and beyond
- Develop and publish a monograph on Luyaaye
- Publish two journal articles on the information structures in Luganda
The outline of the monograph on Luyaaye

- The emergence and transient nature of Luyaaye; a diachronic perspective (an in-depth investigation of the social, political and economic realities that have favoured its evolution and spread amidst stigmatisation and scepticism)
- The relationship between migration, multilingualism, language contact and change in relation to the emergence and development of Luyaaye in Kampala.
- The sociolinguistic features and functions of Luyaaye
- Patterns of linguistic identity construction among the urban youths
- The nature and social meanings of gestural styles among urban-youth Luyaaye speakers
The outline continued

- The phonological features of Luyaaye
- Nominal and verbal morphology of Luyaaye
- The effect and influence of Luyaaye on indigenous languages of Uganda specifically Luganda which serves as its base language and English the official language of Uganda
What happened?

- Change of plan
  - Instead of a monograph, I was advised to change each chapter into a journal article
  - I, therefore, targeted to write six papers (on Luyaaye) in the period of six months for the fellowship and one on information structure of Luganda. Making a total of 7 papers
The project(s) output


- Christiane Meiekord, Bebwa Isingoma and Namyalo Saudah (eds), Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and issues in a globalising post-protectorate, Benjamins Publishing Company

Namyalo, Saudah (to appear) Analysing linguistic variation in contemporary Luganda within the urban space.

Namyalo, Saudah (to appear). The comeback-tomorrows disappointed the professor again: understanding youth-urban languages, a case study of Makerere University students' English variety.
Presentations

- "Linguistic variation in Luganda spoken in the urban Space"; presented with Cambridge collaborator at African Linguistic Conference (ACAL) at Oregon, US March 2015
- "Focus marking in Luganda"; presented at African Linguistic Conference (ACAL), Oregon, US, March 2015
- "Language change and contact A case of Luyaaye"; presented at World Congress of African Linguistics-WOCAL 8", Japan August 2015
- "The secret life of languages and cultures” presented with Cambridge collaborator at Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October 2015
- “The comeback tomorrows disappointed the professor”; presented at Youth-urban languages in Africa and beyond, Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015
- Towards understanding the phonology of Luyaaye ; Capetown –South Africa 2015
Trainings received during the CAPREx fellowship

- Methodology / approaches to research from a disciplinary point of view
- Presentation and organizational skills
- Academic engagement and networking
- Planning for your postdoc and beyond
- Writing proposal for funding (among others)
How the CAPREx fellowship opened new doors

- With the skills gained during the fellowship I was able to win three highly competitive research grants
  - PI: 2016-2019, Volkswagen postdoc research in Humanities A grammar and bilingual talking dictionary of Luruuli/Lunyara-English dictionary
  - P1: 2016-2017, Genographic legacy fund Documentation of Luganda oral literature
  - Co-PI: 2018-2019, Maternal health in East Africa
The CAPREx fellowship improved my visibility in academic world hence getting not only new networks but networks that matter. Today I collaborate with:

- Researchers on youth languages varieties representing Uganda
- Endangered language and cultures club
- Medical humanities association
- Lexicology and lexicophers researchers
- Fellow Nat-geo (endangered species of the world)
- Bantu phonologists (among others)
The good mentorship I received from my Cambridge partner, my research and writing skills improved:

**Articles**
- Scott Myers, Saudah Namyalo, & Anatole Kiriggwajjo (in print), F0 timing and tone association in Luganda
- Riham Abudonia¹ & Saudah Namyalo², Luganda applicatives: a Dynamic Syntax approach
- Fridah Katushemeurerwe and Saudah Namyalo, The functions and semantics of enclitics in Ruruuli-Lunyala, Luganda and Runyankore_Rukiga
- Saudah Namyalo and Jackson Ssekiryanjo, The Interface between morphology, syntax and phonology in Luganda
Forthcoming publication cont’ed

Books

- Saudah Namyalo (in print) A monograph on ‘Terminological Modernisation of Luganda in the field of Linguistics

- Saudah Namyalo et al (in print) Luruuli/Lunyala – English Luganda dictionary

- Saudah Namyalo et al (in print) The grammar of Luruuli/Lunyala

- Saudah Namyalo et al (in print) The dictionary of Luganda proverbs and idioms
Conclusion

With the achievements registered during and after the CAPREx, I can only conclude by saying that

CAPREx, was a spring board to the skies
Thank you very much –the end