



Kiswahili Language as a Medium For Instruction in Tanzania

101. Tumbi

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Introduction:

The national language of our country is Kiswahili though there is about 150 tribal languages. In recent years there was a large increase of Kiswahili users, the number of Tanzania citizens using is growing rapidly to the extent that Kiswahili is not only the national language but also is the first language of Tanzanians.

Our project is based on observing which language between English and Kiswahili is better for teaching, learning and training in the country as stated in the education policy of 2014 page 37 that was officially announced in 2015 by president Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. For this main reason, we aimed to prove the possibility of this policy to be implemented.



Method:

This project was conducted by using a sample size of 252 people and 3 language specialists in interviews, 100 students and 50 teachers and other education stakeholders were provided with questionnaires to fill and a sample of 102 students were provided with two (2) tests which had the same questions presented in different languages (English and Kiswahili) with a different arrangement of the questions in the tests.

Lastly we also interviewed the director of TATAKI University of Dar es salaam Dr. Ernesta Mosha and also the senior language researcher from the department of language and literature of BAKITA (Mrs. Fatuma Abdallah) in order to know how much are they prepared for these changes.



Students supplying questionnaires to teachers



supplying questionnaires to different education stakeholders



Interviewing language researchers from the department of language and literature at BAKITA



Interviewing the Director of Institute of Kiswahili Studies University of Dar es salaam (TATAKI)



Students of Kibaha Girls doing Tests

Results:

The results of the questionnaires where 41.3% supported Kiswahili Language, 5.3% where intermediate (Supported both languages) and 53.4% supported English language. Hence, we expected that this education policy would not be accepted by the majority.

The result of the tests showed that the average scores in English was 41% while the average scores in Kiswahili was 65%.

The following are the results of our project:

SCORES (%)	FREQUENCY (f)
1 – 20	00
21 – 40	06
41 – 60	31
61 – 80	50
81 – 100	15

Scores (P _a)	Frequencies (f)
1 – 20	25
21 – 40	30
41 – 60	24
61 – 80	16
81 – 100	07

2. From the questionnaires

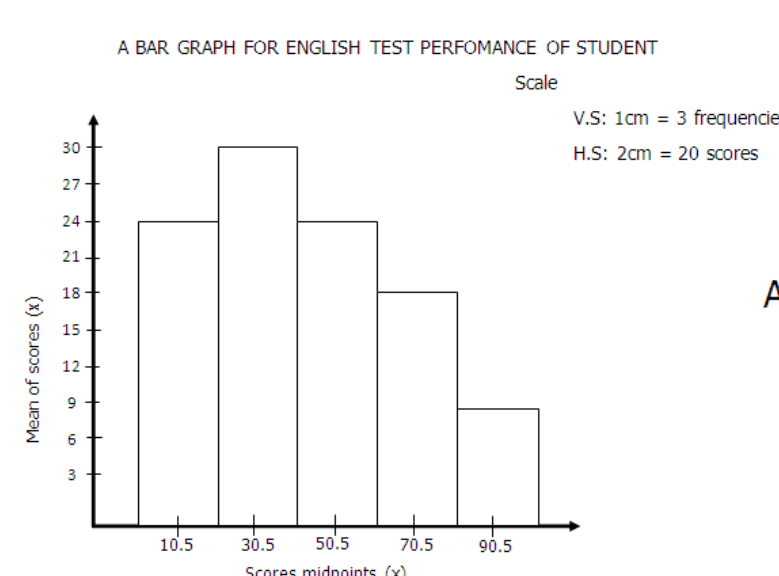
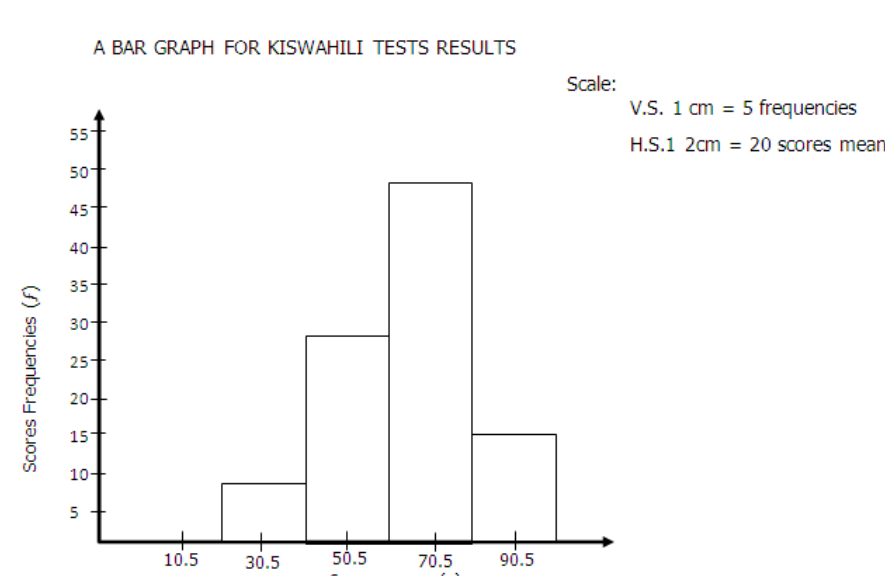
The results grouped into three major groups namely Yes, No and Intermediate.

Keys:

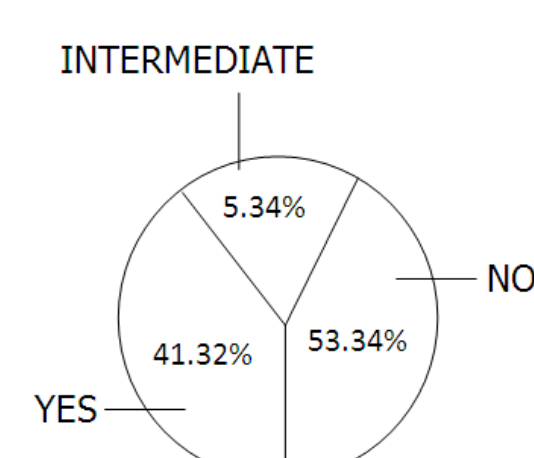
Yes – those who accept/agree with Kiswahili language

No – those who did not accept/agree with Kiswahili language

Intermediate – Partially agree and partially disagree on using Kiswahili language.

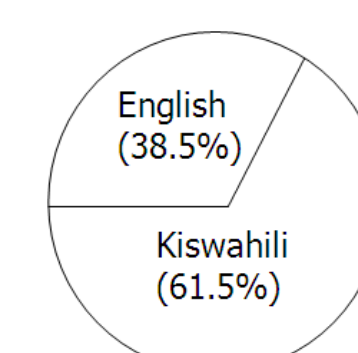


A PIE CHART FOR THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS.



A PIE CHART FOR THE TEST RESULTS.

Take the mean of Kiswahili and English language.
Kiswahili language = 65
English language = 40.7
Total mean = 105.7



Conclusions

This results led to our conclusion that Kiswahili language was better understood by students however the people are not ready to accept it.

This results also appeared to be the same when we interviewed the director of TATAKI, Dr. Ernesta Mosha of the university of Dar es salaam and two (2) senior language researchers at BAKITA from the Department of Language and literature, Mrs. Fatuma Abdallah and Mr. Ambros Mughaga. They gave us a detailed explanation of the aim of this policy and how can possibly be implemented.

References:

Brochure 2014 (TATAKI)

Document of the Education and training policy 2014

Instilahi za Kiswahili (BAKITA)

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