

Workshop presentation



LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

Chaired by: **Ines Ngassam, Henri Van-Damme & Kayondo Muzafalu**

Presented by: **Ibrahim Balogun & Ines Ngassam**

Workshop group

Names	Country	Number of languages spoken
Kayondo Muzafalu	Uganda	6
Joseph Oyamo	Kenya	3
Eufrasia N. Nsiona	Angola	4
Mammo Muchie	Ethiopia	8
Henri Van-Damme	Belgium	3
Ines Ngassam	Cameroon	3
Ibrahim Balogun	Nigeria	3
Robert Tchitnga	Cameroon	7
Wangari E. Muthoni	Kenya	3
Debra Njoroge	Kenya	3



Participants: 10: 4 ladies and 6 gents

Questionnaire



Language and Communication Barriers - Questionnaire



1. What is your native language? _____

2. Apart from your native language, what other language(s) can you speak?

3. Have you ever experienced any language and communication barrier in science, engineering, and research? (a) Yes (b) No

If Yes, what type of barrier? _____

4. Based on the presentations of this conference so far, do you think it is important to address the language barrier issue? (a) Yes (b) No

If Yes, why? _____

5. Any suggestions to overcome language and communication barriers?

Thank you for your time!! We look forward to sharing with you our findings 😊

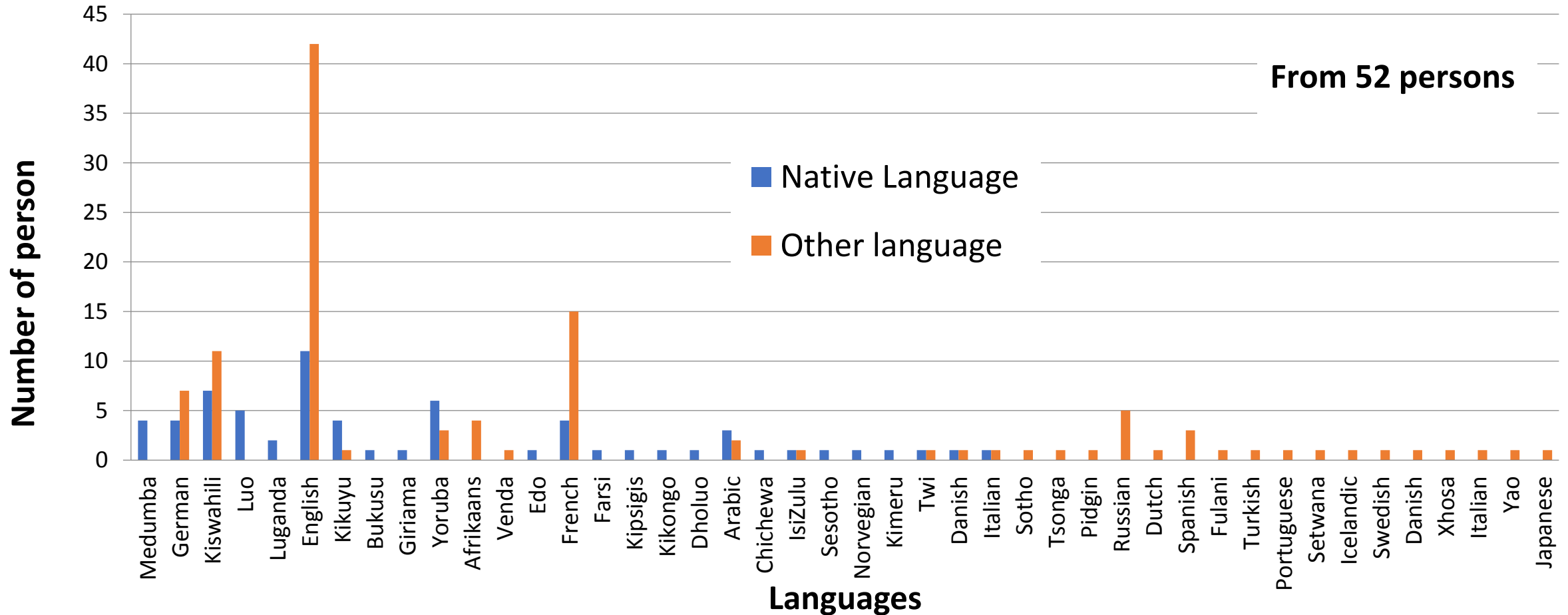
Results of survey

- A survey to analyse the language diversity

	2 yes	1 yes, 1 no	2 no
Have you ever experienced any language and communication barrier in science, engineering, and research?			
Based on the presentations of this conference so far, do you think it is important to address the language barrier issue?	21	17	14

Language survey

- A survey to analyse the language diversity



Focal points



- Lack of knowledge transfer
- Limitation in collaboration

An Advocacy for Setting an Agenda to Exploit Africa Multilingualism and Cultural Diversity for the Realization of the Dream of a United African States

Prof Sunday O. Ojo & Prof Mammo Muchie

- Languages are phasing out!
 - Language as a powerful tool
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Problems and challenges



Where do the language and communication barriers come from?

- Multiple native languages
 - Native languages were forbidden
 - Accents
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Solution strategies

How can we teach in African language?

- The African Union has selected the **Kiswahili** language. => But problem of implementation !!!
 - Science African heritage, **alphabet Géez** (alphabet that express sounds) => Why is not used?
 - Introduce native languages in curriculums
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Solution strategies

How can we teach in African language?

- Children should learn at least 3 languages + 1 foreign language
 - **Language hubs**
 - Reduce the learning price
 - Improve the tourism sector
 - Access to everyone: person in rural area....
 - Education and health funds
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Solution strategies

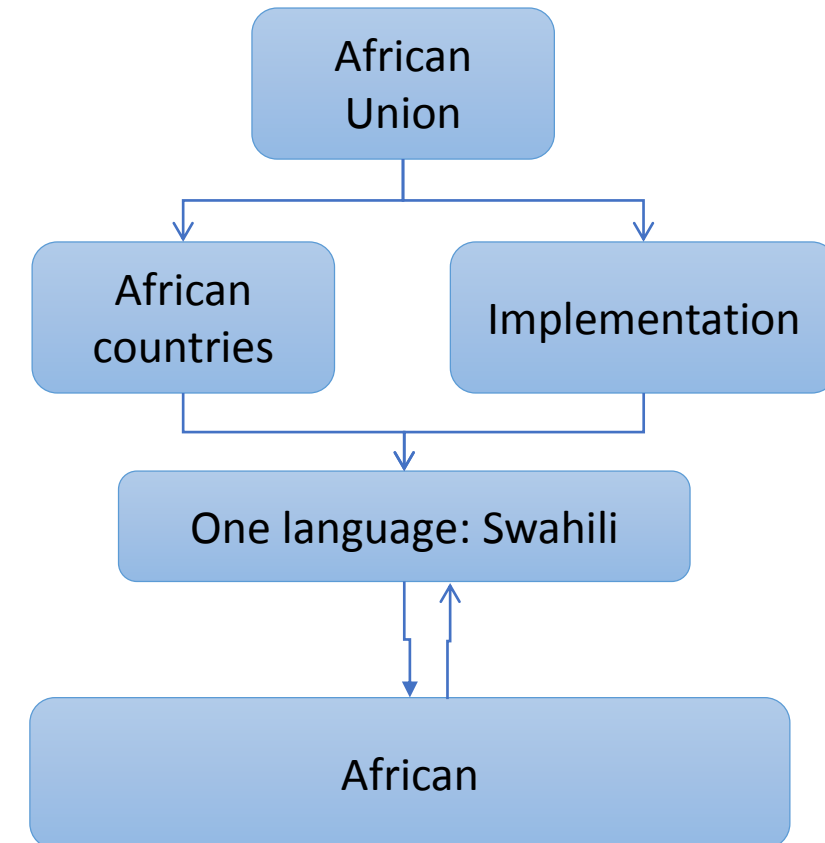


- **We need to be diverse, to learn more languages**
 - **Own our heritage (culture, spirituality, science, history, language...)**
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Solution strategies

Who is responsible of this change?

- African Union: But it should be financially independent. There should be uniform distribution of wealth
- Africa: Africa has to implement the solutions
- Let's start from ourselves: regional exchange languages, personal research



Pains and gains



There is nothing to lose

There is a lot more to gain

Next steps of this group



- African Indigenous Knowledge (AIK) (Project by *Mammo Muchie*)
 - Hi-tech language translators: electronic calendar for the revival of African languages (Project of Achille Tchahou and Robert Tchitnga)
 - Continous exchange of cultural heritage
 - Personal research
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Conclusion



- Diversification of knowledge in broad band of languages.
 - Creation of an African academy to update African vocabulary.
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