

# **Ngoni - Language, Culture and Sociolinguistic Situation - Photo Elicitation Traditional Objects**

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## **Citation**

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## **Creator/Principal investigator(s)**

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## **Research principal**

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## **Description**

The project comprised three interrelated parts: A main project Language documentation and analysis of Ngoni, which was a joint project by Tove Rosendal and Gastor Mapunda, and two subprojects: The Ngoni culture - a documentation project (Gastor Mapunda), and Language vitality and intergenerational transmission of the language Ngoni - a sociolinguistic survey (Tove Rosendal).

The archived data are from the project part Language documentation and analysis of Ngoni. It consists of a set of recordings from elicitations using photos depicting local community situations (agriculture i.e. a farming scene, kitchen, i.e. an outdoor cooking scene and 'modern items'), and a set of recordings based on photos of old, traditional items. In both sets of recordings the informants were encouraged to talk rather freely in Ngoni about the concepts in the photos and how these items are used, after a short introduction in Ngoni by a native speaker. Code-switching with Swahili was found in all recordings, but to a varying degree.

The transcriptions of the recordings are filed here, in addition to some photos of informants in an elicitation situation. Swahili spelling conventions are used for the transcriptions. Additionally, you will find a map indicating the villages where the recordings were made.

The recordings were conducted in the Songea Rural District, east of Lake Nyasa in the Ruvuma Region in southwestern Tanzania in November-December 2012 and in August-September 2013, in the Songea Rural District which is situated in the geographically middle of the Ngoni speaking area. In addition, some recordings were made in Michungwani in Tanga District in September 2013.

The data recorded in Songea District were collected in linguistically and socio-economically different contexts, in the villages Peramiho, Mhepai and Kilagano. Peramiho is a semi-urban centre, situated 24 kilometers northwest of Songea town. The area is also home to German Benedictine Catholic missionaries who settled in the area more than 130 years ago. In Peramiho there is a big hospital, a church, banks, a police station, a printing press and artisan workshops. The people in the area are involved in activities ranging from formal employment, farming and petty businesses. People who live in Peramiho are relatively more educated than people from other locations around the district. Mhepai is a small village 33 km further northwest of Peramiho, 62 kilometres from Songea town. The place is remote with only one primary school. Additionally, due to the nature of the place, interaction with the

rest of the Songea Region and also the rest of Tanzania is limited. Only recently a mini-bus started to ply the route, and only once a day. The introduction of Chinese motorbikes has recently made the village a bit more accessible. Exposure to mass media is very limited due to lack of electricity. Most people in the place are small scale farmers, and are also involved in small scale animal husbandry and poultry, basically for domestic consumption.

Kilagano is another small and isolated village in the same area, northwest of Songea. The living conditions are similar to the conditions in Mhepai.

The data also consist of recordings of old people who moved away from the Ngoni speaking area around 1950 to work on sisal plantations in Michungwani in the Tanga region of Tanzania.

The recordings of photo elicitations of agriculture (farming scene), kitchen (outdoor cooking scene) and 'modern items' were made by 12 informants in Peramiho, 12 in Mhepai and 4 in Michungwani, Tanga region.

Recordings of descriptions of old items were made by 7 informants in Peramiho, 6 in Kilagano and 4 in Michungwani, Tanga region.

The informants were from three age groups: 15-30 years, 31-50 years and 51 years or older (age varied between 57 and 94 years). 50 % of the informants were men and 50 female, see metadata information attached as an Excel file ("Documentation" tab above).

Purpose:

The project "Ngoni - Language, culture and sociolinguistic situation" as a whole is a contribution to safeguarding the Ngoni culture, by documenting, preserving and analysing its intangible cultural heritage. Its focus was especially on language, both as a resource for indigenous knowledge and as a socio-linguistic indicator of cultural vitality in a contact situation with Swahili. The aim of the analysis of the elicited recordings was to investigate the influence of Swahili which has been promoted for decades and today is spoken all over Tanzania. Simultaneously the project aimed at documenting other aspects of Ngoni culture. The archived data are from the project part Language documentation and analysis of Ngoni, which aimed at investigating how Ngoni is influenced by Swahili, especially focusing on borrowing and code-switching.

The dataset contains 17 recordings of elicitation sessions with photos of traditional objects. Along with the recordings the dataset comes with transcripts, the photos used in the elicitation and a metadata file.

## **Language**

[Ngoni](#)

## **Unit of analysis**

[Individual](#)

## **Time period(s) investigated**

2013-08 - 2013-09

## **Data format / data structure**

[Text](#)

[Still image](#)

[Audio](#)

## Data collection 1

- Mode of collection: Recording
- Time period(s) for data collection: 2013-08 – 2013-09

## Geographic spread

Geographic location: [Tanzania](#), [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Geographic description:

Songea Rural District, east of Lake Nyasa in the Ruvuma Region in southwestern Tanzania.

Dataset 001: The villages of Kilagano, Michungwani and Peramiho.

Dataset 002: The villages of Mhepai and Peramiho.

## Responsible department/unit

Department of Languages and Literatures

## Research area

[Sociology \(excluding social work, social psychology and social anthropology\)](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[General language studies and linguistics](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Language and linguistics](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

## Keywords

[Borrowing](#), [Endangered languages](#), [Code-switching](#), [Language documentation](#), [Language contact](#), [Ngoni](#), [Swahili](#)

## Publications

Mapunda, G. och Rosendal, T. (2014) Is the Tanzanian Ngoni language threatened? A survey of lexical borrowing from Swahili. Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, vol. 35, no 3, pp. 271-288 DOI 10.1080/01434632.2013.864659

[Swepub](#) | [Institutional Repository](#)

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2013.864659>

Tove Rosendal & Gastor Mapunda. 2017. Contact-induced language alternation in Tanzanian Ngoni - an empirical study of frequency and patterns, International Journal of Multilingualism, Volume 14, Issue 4, pp 463-477. DOI 10.1080/14790718.2016.1156684

[Swepub](#) | [Institutional Repository](#)

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/14790718.2016.1156684>

Mapunda, Gastor & Rosendal, Tove. 2015. Borrowing in Tanzanian Ngoni lexicon: Some semantic trends in a language contact situation. Language Matters. Volume 46, Issue 2, pp 180-194. DOI 10.1080/10228195.2015.1027484

**ISSN:** 1753-5395

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2015.1027484>

Rosendal, Tove. 2016. Language transmission and use in a bilingual setting in rural Tanzania. Findings from an in-depth study of Ngoni. In Endangered Languages and Languages in Danger. Issues of documentation, policy and language rights Eds. Martin Pütz & Luna Filipović (series IMPACT Studies in Language and Society) pp 335-349. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. DOI 10.1075/impact.42-14ros

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1075/impact.42-14ros>

### **Polygon (Lon/Lat)**

29.327168, -0.990736

29.327168, -11.745696

40.443222, -11.745696

40.443222, -0.990736

29.327168, -0.990736

### **Accessibility level**

Access to data through SND

Access to data is restricted

### **Use of data**

[Things to consider when using data shared through SND](#)

### **Versions**

Version 1.0. 2014-12-19

### **Related research data in SND's catalogue**

[Ngoni - Language, Culture and Sociolinguistic Situation - Photo Elicitation Modern Objects](#)

[Linguistic Marginalization - Understanding the Process and Effects on Developmental Capabilities - Recordings, transcriptions and translations of focus group discussions in Ngoni](#)

[Linguistic Marginalization - Understanding the Process and Effects on Developmental Capabilities - Recordings and translations \(English\) of interviews in Swahili](#)

### **Download metadata**

[DataCite](#)

[DDI 2.5](#)

[DDI 3.3](#)

[DCAT-AP-SE 2.0](#)

[JSON-LD](#)

[PDF](#)

[Citation \(CSL\)](#)

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