Karibu Tanzania, karibu Zanzibar: An Overview of the origin of Kiswahili

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History and Origins of Swahili

- History

✓ Who is a Swahili person?

✓ What triggered the growth of Swahili?
Cont....

- Trade routes

✓ Movements Within Africa
Cont.

- The Indian Ocean trade routes
- Swahili civilization
How many speakers so far?

- In Africa – Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique, DRC
- More than 140 million
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3V-7DEAgdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3V-7DEAgdc)
Other influences

- Colonialism

- Liberation movements: Julius Kambarage Nyerere in Tanzania.
But where did Swahili originate?

- Different theories:
  - Arab language – islam- words – hatari, magharib
  - Congo/Zaire – Copper mining
  - It started as a pidgin and develop over time
  - Bantu speaking people- word structure-tone- language morphology
Pronunciations

- Guided by vowels: a e i o u
- Consonants: Same as English except Q and X
- Letter C is always used with “h” CH
- Written the same as it should sound
Examples

- Mama – mother
- Barua – letter
- Moja – one
- Hakuna matata – no worry
- Shule – school
Swahili greetings

- Habari ya saubuhi - good morning
- Nzuri - fine
- Hujambo - how are you?
- Sijambo - I am fine.
Numbers

- Cardinals
  - Sifuri - 0
  - Moja - 1
  - Mbili - 2
  - Tatu - 3
  - Nne - 4
  - Tano - 5

- Ordinals
  - 1\textsuperscript{st} – Kwanza
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} pili
  - 3\textsuperscript{rd} –..... Same as cardinals
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days of the week &amp; Months</th>
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<td>Jumamosi</td>
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A simple dialogue

- Jina lako ni nani? What is your name?
- Jina langu ni... My name is
- Unatoka wapi? Where do you come from?
- Ulikuja lini Tanzania? When did you come to Tanzania
- Kwa heri. Goodbye
Asante! - Thank you!