

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

RELATIVE CLAUSES IN MARAGOLI

BY
JEDIDAH JUMBA

A Linguistic Project Submitted to the Graduate School in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts in Translation Studies

JULY, 2007

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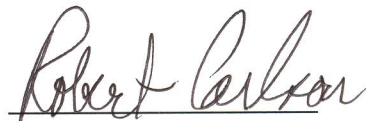
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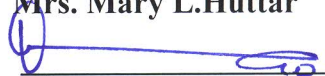


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Student's Declaration

RELATIVE CLAUSES IN MARAGOLI

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology or the Examiners.

(signed)  _____

Jedidah Jumba

July, 2007

ABSTRACT

In the course of my studies at NEGST, it has come to my attention that very little linguistics work has been done on the Maragoli language. This study is on the relative clause as one of the grammatical categories needing research. The purpose of the paper is to establish the different types of relative clauses that are present in the language. The focus is on the morpho-syntactic roles in the grammar of the language. By so doing, I intend to make available Maragoli language data and thus make a contribution to linguistic, hence, translation work on not only Maragoli, but other languages as well.

TO

My late son

JAMES KEYA JUMBA

who went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ through a fatal road accident that involved
the whole family in the course of my studies at N.E.G.S.T.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere and deepest gratitude is first and foremost to God Almighty who has enabled me to complete this Linguistics Project and my studies at N.E.G.S.T.

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To God be the glory, for the things He has done.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APP	applicative
BEN	benefactive
CL	class
CAUS	causative
DO	direct object
FP	far past
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
INSTR	instrument
IO	indirect object
LOC	locative
MANN	manner
NC	noun complement
NP	noun phrase
O COMP	object of comparison
OBL	oblique
PASS	passive
PAST	past
PAT	patient
PERF	perfective
PL	plural

POSS	possessive
PRES	present
PRON	pronoun
RC	relative clause
REAS	reason
REC	reciprocal
REL	relative pronoun
RF	remote future
SG	singular
SU	subject
TIME	time
V	verb
VP	verb phrase

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The People, Language Classification and Social Setting

Maragoli or Logooli is spoken in Vihiga Districts of western Kenya. Its alternative names are RAGOLI, ULURAGOOI, LLUGULE, LUGOOI, MARAGOLI, LURAGOLI, LLOGOLE. Its language family is *Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, southern, Narrow Bantu, central, J. Masaba-Luyia (J.30), Luyia*. Maragoli has 70% to 80% lexical similarity with Idakho-Isukha-Tiriki. Maragoli is a term used interchangeably to refer to the language or the place. The speakers are normally referred to as Maragolis by non native speakers but (a)Valogooli by fellow Maragoli speakers. One native speaker is referred to as (u)Mulogooli. Their location is known as (e)Vologooli and the language (u)Lulogooli. The initial vowel is optional, particularly in rapid speech, it is also dependent on idiosyncratic tendencies. There are 197,000 speakers of the language (Grimes 1996, 292).

The Maragoli people are traditionally peasant farmers and have a literacy rate of between 50-75 %. There is a small range of published material including some novels and school textbooks (Grimes 1996, 292) and the Lulogooli Bible which was first published in 1951 (Mojola, 1999).

Religion, and in particular Christianity, plays a very important role among the Valogooli and is part and parcel of their social lives as evidenced in cultural activities like birth, initiation, marriage, etc.

1.2 Previous Research of Maragoli and Its Language Family

To the best of the researcher's knowledge, no linguistics work has been done on the Maragoli relative clause (RC). However, studies have been carried out in related languages like Kinyarwanda, a Lake-Bantu language of Rwanda, and Bemba, a Bantu language of Uganda. Keenan and Comrie's comparison of RC formation in several languages including Bantu languages has been very useful.

1.3 Purpose of Study

Relativisation is characteristic of many languages in the world. Considering the lack of a descriptive study of the Maragoli language, the purpose of this study is two-fold:

1. To give a detailed discussion of the Maragoli Relative Clause.
2. To make the Maragoli language data available to other researchers.

1.4 Methodology

The data used in this paper is based on a Maragoli narrative text: "*Zinyingu munane*" and a Maragoli translation of Isaiah 65: 1-4, as found in the Appendix. My personal knowledge of the language and interaction with native speakers has been an additional source.

