THE ROLE OF MOTHER TONGUE EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING:
A CASE STUDY OF BALE AND MADAMANI PRIMARY SCHOOLS

BY

Alfred Mtawali Kazungu

This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Master of Development Studies (MDS) from St. Paul's University

JUNE 2012

St. Paul's University

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List of Abbreviations

BTL - Bible Translation and Literacy

CEF - Commonwealth Education Fund

ECD - Early Childhood Development

ECE - Early Childhood Education

EFA - Education For All

FL - Foreign Language

FPE - Free Primary Education

GER - Gross Enrolment Rate

GILDI - Giryama Language and Development Initiative

IT - Information Technology

KIE - Kenya Institute of Education

KG - Kindergarten

L1 - First Language

L2 - Second Language

LiE - Language in Education

MDG - Millennium Development Goals

MoI - Medium of Instruction

MT - Mother Tongue

MTE - Mother Tongue Education

MTI - Mother Tongue Instruction

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

RCTs - Randomized Controlled Trials

STI - Science Technology and Innovation

WGA - Wycliffe Global Alliance

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Abstract.

This study aimed at investigating the role of mother tongue education in early childhood education. The objectives were to examine the benefits of early childhood education in the mother tongue as compared to early childhood education in English, to examine the learning process among children and to evaluate the performance of students instructed in Kigiryama and those instructed in English in Madamani and Bale primary schools. The study was conducted in two primary schools in Kilifi County. For one term pupils in one primary school were instructed in English while pupils in the other school were instructed in vernacular. At the end of the term, a test was administered to the pupils to establish the mean score. Findings revealed that pupils instructed in mother tongue performed better at this stage than those instructed in English. It is recommended that it is more appropriate for students to be instructed in their mother tongue at their early stage to ensure children grasp core concepts during their learning experience in school.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Giryama Mathematics Exam

{GD - B}

DZINA_____THAREHE_____

DHALAJA RA HIRI: MUTIHANI WA MWISHO WA MWAKA - 2011 ISABU

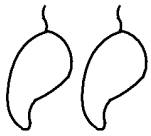
1. Ndhika namba 1-20 (alama20)

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

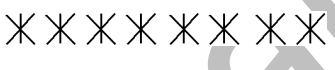
____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

2. Thala na undhike (alama 20)

 +  = _____

 +  = _____

 = _____

 = _____

3. Chora maumbo (alama 20)

P'embe ne	Iji

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4. Jumulisha (alama 20)

3 + 4 = _____

5 + 1 = _____

1 + 1 = _____

3 + 3 = _____

4 + 5 = _____

5. Mboza (alama20)

5 - 1 = _____

3 - 2 = _____

4 - 3 = _____

5 - 5 = _____

6 - 4 = _____

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APPENDIX B: Giryama Reading Exam

DHALAJA RA HIRI T'amu ya Hahu, 2011

Dzina_____

Sikuli_____

1. **Shoma maneno gaga.**

K'uku	**Mufereji**	**Kofia**
P'aka	**Kitanda**	**Nyungu**
Kikombe	**Kigulu**	**Nyumba**
K'alamu	**Meza**	**Mwezi**
Dzuwa	**Kishu**	**Mukoba**

2. **Shoma Sentensi zizi**

Kiki ni kihi.

Mimi ni mubomu

K'u'ku ana iji

P'anya mubomu ni mui

Ii ni kofia

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APPENDIX C: English Mathematics Exam

{GD - B}

NAME_____ **DATE** _____

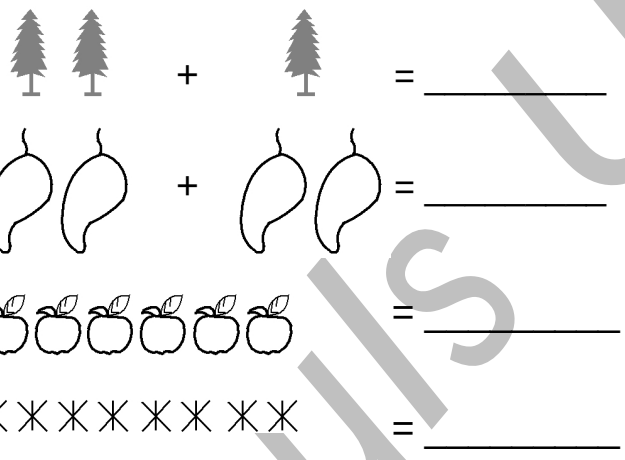
KG II TERM III - 2011 NUMBER WORK

1. Write numbers 1-20 (20mrks)

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

2. Count and write (20mks)



+ = _____

+ = _____

= _____

= _____

3. Draw the shapes (20mks)

Rectangle	Oval

4. Add (20mks)

5. Subtract (20mks)

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3 + 4 = _____

5 + 1 = _____

1 + 1 = _____

3 + 3 = _____

4 + 5 = _____

5 - 1 = _____

3 - 2 = _____

4 - 3 = _____

5 - 5 = _____

6 - 4 = _____

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APPENDIX D: English Reading Exam

KG II Term III- 2011

Name_____

School_____

3. **Read these words.**

Chicken	**Tap**	**Hat**
Cat	**Bed**	**Pot**
Cup	**Leg**	**House**
Pen	**Table**	**Moon**
Sun	**Knife**	**Bag**

4. **Read these sentences**

This is a chair

I am big

The chicken has an egg

The big rat is bad

This is a hat

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