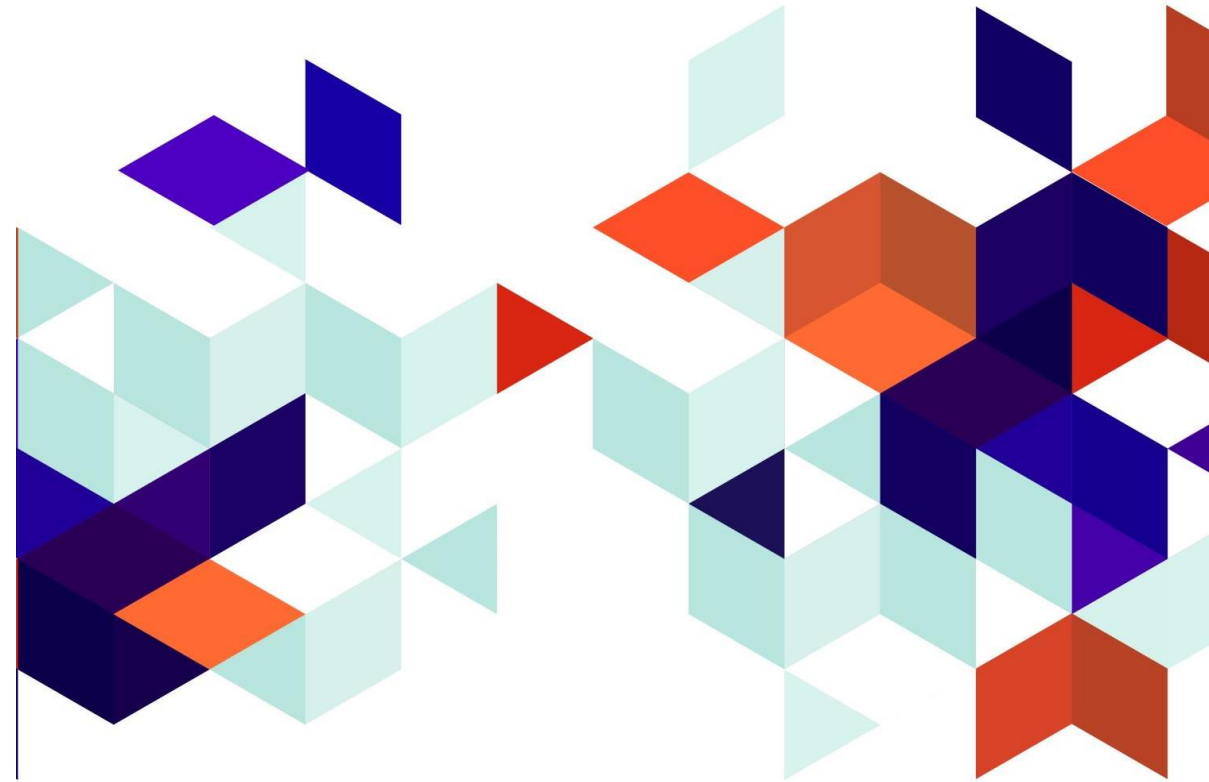

**USING CORPUS DATA TO
UNDERSTAND PRESCRIPTIVE
AND PROSCRIPTIVE GUIDANCE
IN STYLE GUIDES: A CASE IN
STYLE GUIDES: A CASE OF
ICIBEMBA LANGUAGE OF
ZAMBIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

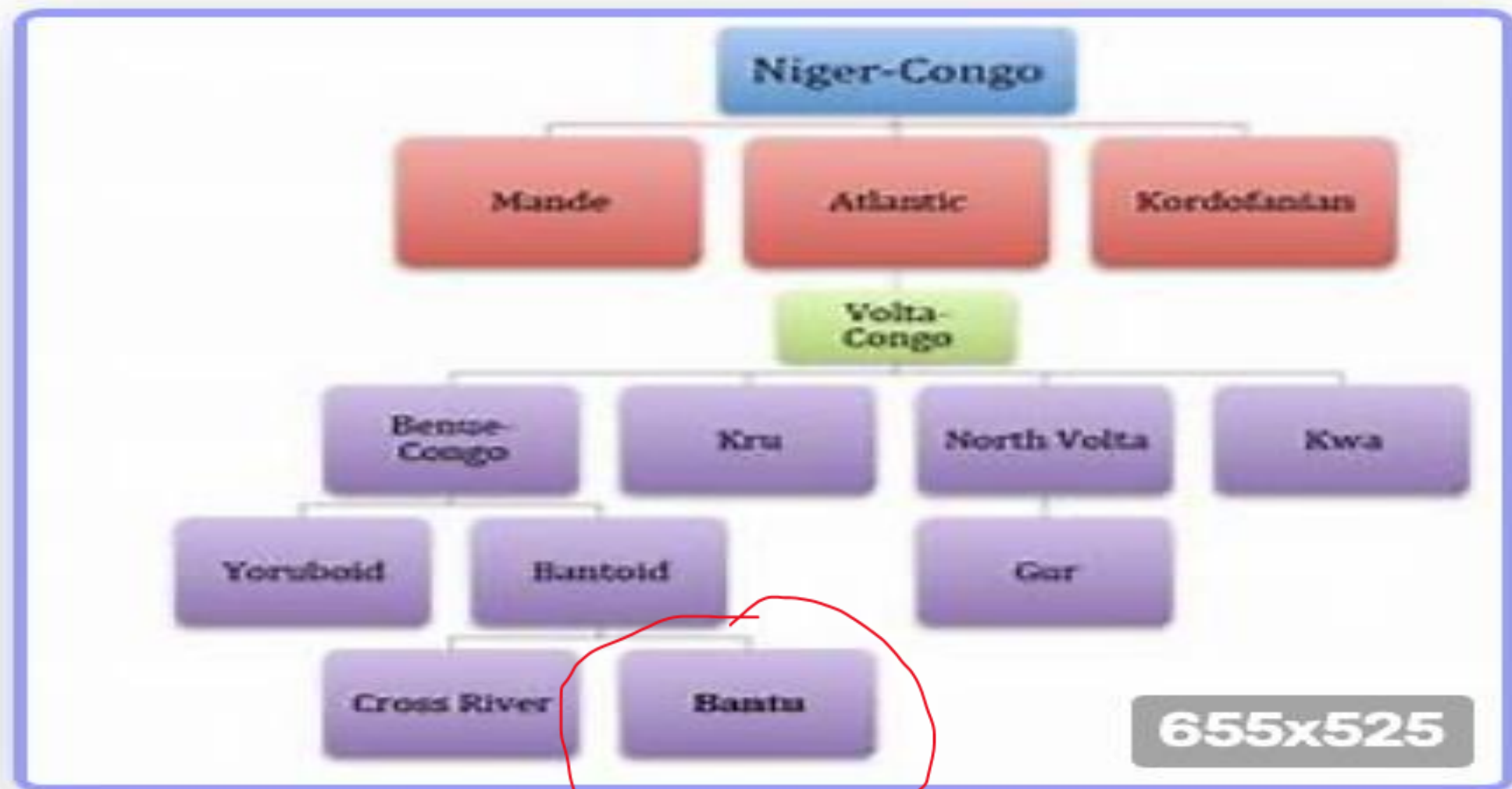
- Brigham Young University. Provo, Utah, USA: Hosts of Research in Editing and Publishing Conference, August 6–7, 2026.
 - University of Johannesburg management for providing an enabling research environment.
 - Chalimbana University management for providing an enabling research environment.
 - Research agreement between Zambia Educational Publishing House (ZEPH) Lusaka, Zambia and Dr. Alex Kasonde, Lusaka, Zambia for granting access to and utilization of electronic data for research purposes (2025).
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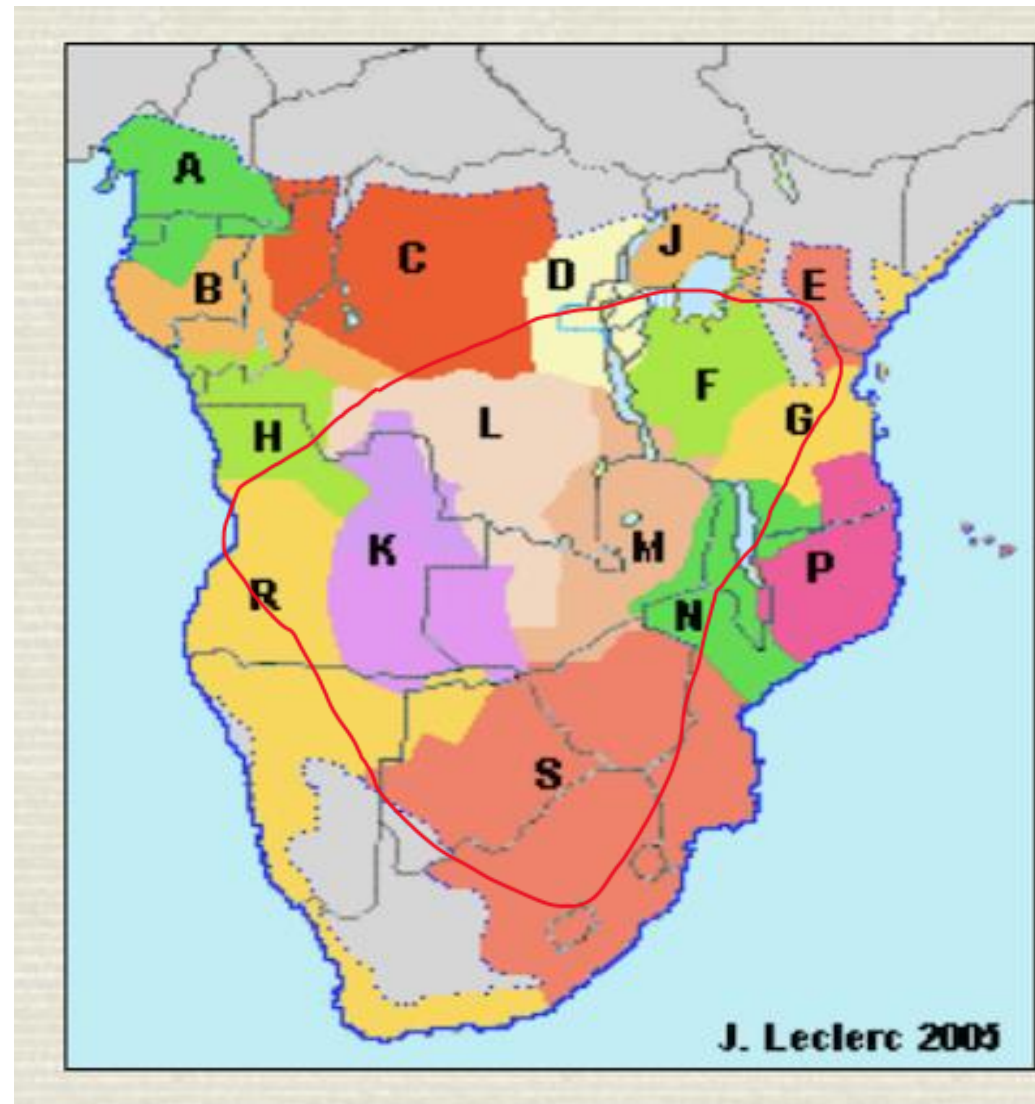
BACKGROUND

The Niger-Congo family of African languages

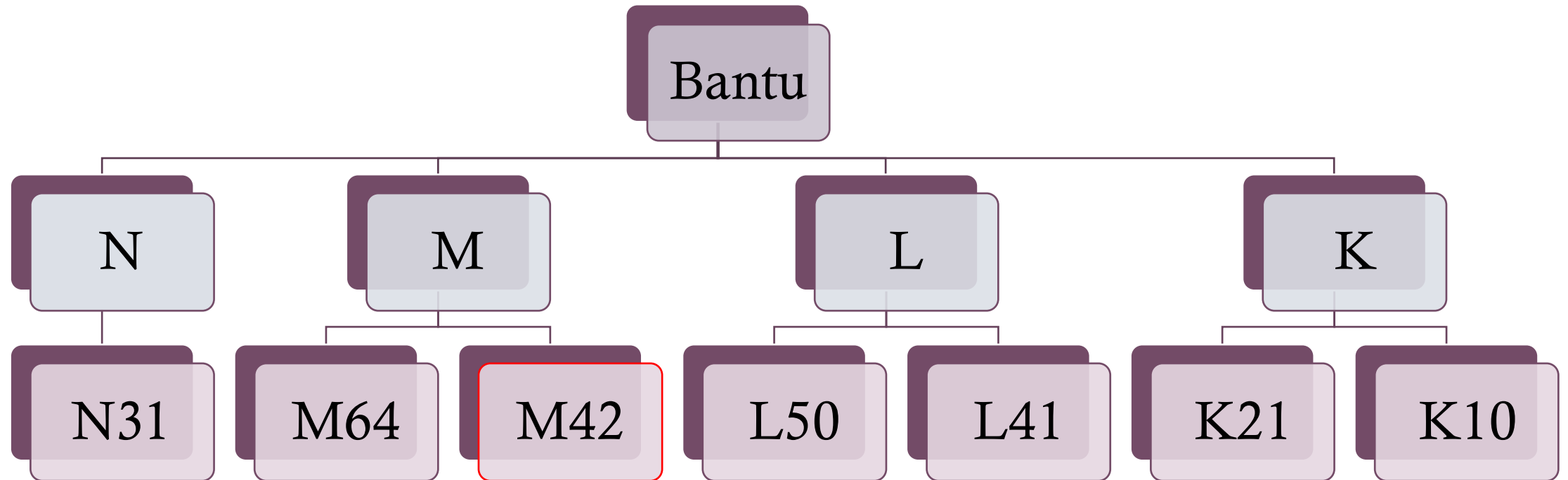
The branches of Bantu languages

The branches of Bantu languages of Zambia





SEVEN OFFICIAL BANTU LANGUAGES OF ZAMBIA (GUTHRIE 1948)



SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL LANGUAGES OF ZAMBIA (%)



PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

- to use corpus data to understand prescriptive and proscriptive guidance in style guides.
 - [corpus linguistics is a branch of linguistics that collects digital empirical data of human language for AI and LLM applications, including spell and grammar checker, automatic translation and dictionary making].
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CORPUS COMPILATION

- The sample consisted of 10 pieces of creative writing by 8 different Bemba speaking authors from ZEPH, successor from Kenneth Kaunda Foundation (KKF) and Northern Rhodesia Literature Bureau (NRLB).
 - The corpus was then converted into a wordlist of unique types with frequency indicated by computer software (tlCopus).
 - A dictionary entry (lemma) comprises statistical frequency, etymology, part of speech, definition(s), sense(s), usage example(s), notes, illustration(s).
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SAMPLE OF CALQUE FOREIGN WORDS (31)

barman, 4	jealousy, 1	reprint, 2
by, 2	kaffir, 1	rest, 1
central, 1	Leo, 1	Rhodes, 3
chairman, 3	lily, 1	road, 1
company, 1	Ltd, 1	savoy, 1
educational, 3	Mary, 5	siding, 1
first, 2	national, 1	stores, 2
government, 3	Nyerere, 1	taxi, 1
hostel, 2	of, 1	tennis, 1
hotel, 4	published, 1	Victoria, 1
	publishing, 2	

A: SAMPLE OF DOMESTICATED FOREIGN WORDS (39)

<i>indalama, 35</i>	<i>mashitolo, 2</i>	<i>sikinica, 1</i>	<i>bobo, 1</i>
<i>motoka, 31</i>	<i>masukulu, 2</i>	<i>penshoni, 1</i>	<i>akatabo, 1</i>
<i>ndalama, 28</i>	<i>mayati, 2</i>	<i>toloshi, 1</i>	<i>afrika, 1</i>
<i>ofisa, 26</i>	<i>famu, 2</i>	<i>tipoti, 1</i>	<i>mafamu, 1</i>
<i>malaiti, 7</i>	<i>teni, 1</i>	<i>nawinine, 1</i>	<i>maeka, 1</i>
<i>buuku, 3</i>	<i>mutauni, 1</i>	<i>nawina, 1</i>	<i>mafaifi, 1</i>
<i>shitolo, 3</i>	<i>ofesi, 1</i>	<i>nsapato, 1</i>	<i>ceketi, 1</i>
<i>itikiti, 3</i>	<i>sopo, 1</i>	<i>baloleboi, 1</i>	<i>kalaliki, 1</i>
<i>besukulu, 2</i>	<i>tulupiya, 1</i>	<i>buleti, 1</i>	<i>itoloshi, 1</i>
<i>nsuti, 2</i>	<i>shuka, 1</i>	<i>belu, 1</i>	

B: GLOSSES OF DOMESTICATED FOREIGN WORDS (39)

drachma, 35	stores, 2	signature, 1	bob, 1
motor car, 31	schools, 2	pension, 1	book, 1
drachma, 28	yards, 2	trousers, 1	Africa, 1
office, 26	farm, 2	tea pot, 1	farms, 1
lights, 7	ten, 1	I won, 1	acres, 1
book, 3	in town, 1	I have won, 1	fives, 1
		spato(portuguese: shoes), 1	jacket, 1
store, 3	office, 1	lorry boy, 1	clerk, 1
ticket, 3	soap, 1	bread, 1	trousers, 1
of school, 2	rupees, 1	bell, 1	
-suit, 2	sugar, 1		

CONCLUSION

- Domesticated borrowings (loanwords) in the corpus were significantly more prevalent than non-domesticated borrowings (calques).
 - Stylistic effects of calques implied that the policy pertaining to domestication of common borrowings was laissez-faire.
 - Public scrutiny pertaining to the treatment of common calques in editing and publishing would be highly recommended.
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