Enhancing Linguistic Scholarship in Eastern Africa (ELSEA)



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Abstract

Of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world today, one third are endangered, and only about half have a proper description.

Describing languages is important because it forms the foundation for school materials and books, understanding cultural heritage and history, and determining the typology of language structures.

There is thus a large and urgent task, requiring good linguistic skills. Unfortunately, local experts often lack necessary training. This project aims to overcome this gap by training early-career linguists in Eastern Africa.

Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers will improve their skills through online theory training and hands-on fieldwork training, and apply these in their teaching. This plants a seed that sprouts benefits for future generations.



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