

Glossing

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Processing data

- What we get:
a string of sounds in our object language
with an (approximate) translation in English
- What we want:
an exhaustive analysis of form-meaning correspondences
for each part of the language
and an overview of the restrictions on their combinations
- What we need:
a way to start representing the bits and pieces that we do
understand

Glossing!

Kĩĩtharaka

kũrĩ na mwaána ûrá ákũbútîra

kũ-rî na mw-ana û-ra a-kũ-butîr-a

17sm-be with 1-child 3-dem.dist 1sm-prs-swim-fv

'There is a child who is swimming.'

Glossing

- Be consistent in your glosses - discuss choices with your partner!
- Use the Leipzig Glossing Rules
- Most important
 - One morpheme = one gloss = one morpheme
 - Hyphens to separate morphemes
 - Periods to join what corresponds to one morpheme in the language
- Check that every word and its corresponding gloss have the same number of dashes
- When the underlying morphology is particularly obscured in the surface form, use an extra line for morpheme breaks.

Example and choices

Kîîtharaka

kûrî na mwaána ûrá ákũbútîra

kû-rî na mw-ana û-ra

17sm-be with 1-child 3-dem.dist 1sm-prs-swim-fv

'There is a child who is swimming.'

na = and & with

'that' or
relative

final vowel

expletive

be with = have

prefix class 1 = mû

-kû- tense?

Bantu glossing

- Indicate noun classes:
mu-ntu / kompyuta / î-goro
1-person 9.computer 5-yesterday
- Indicate referents and their function:
 - 1sg.sm > first person singular subject marker
 - 3sm > class three subject marker
 - 2om > class 2 object marker
- Never (!) use 3sg/3pl - instead we indicate the noun classes
- Separate verbal derivations:
u-me-andik-i-w-a barua
2sg.sm-pfv-write-appl-pass-fv 9.letter

Let's try!

Swahili

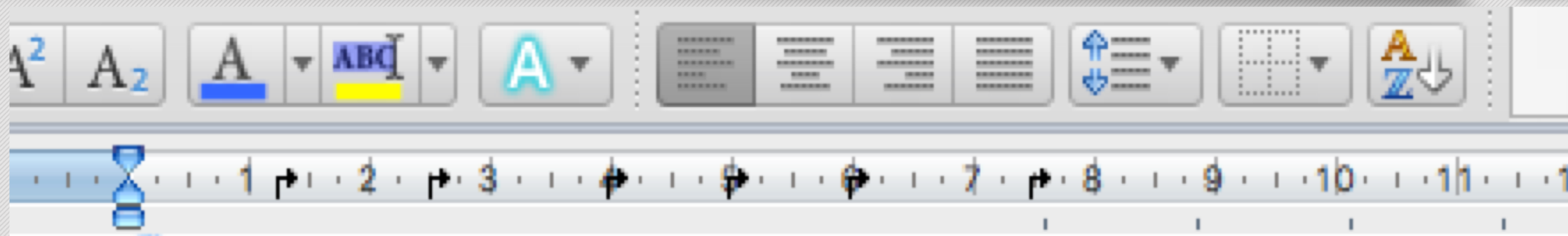
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Walionana | 'They saw each other' |
| 2. Hatumwoni mwalimu | 'We don't see the teacher' |
| 3. Amefungua mlango | 'S/he has opened the door' |
| 4. Miti itaanguka | 'The trees will fall' |
| 5. Mkulima alinyeiwa | 'The farmer was tickled' |
| 6. habari za mchana | 'news of the afternoon / good afternoon' |


Try some more

- In another language than English, write down a simple sentence.
- Now make an extra line with morpheme breaks.
- Find the right glosses for each morpheme.
 - Are there any difficulties?
 - Are there decisions to be made? If so, how do you make them?
- Add a free translation in English, which reflects the intended meaning (not necessarily the form) as closely as possible

Glossing in MS Word

- At the end of the example line,
 - use a line break: **shift+enter**, visible as ↵.
 - do not use a paragraph break: enter, visible as ¶.
- Only have **one tab between words**. Do not use spaces; do not use more than one tab!
- Then set **tabs on the ruler** at the top of the screen - you will see that this moves both the example word and the gloss.



Mandarin Chinese (Li & Thompson 1981, via Whaley 1997: 129) 

(2) → Xiǎo → Huáng → kuài → yào → lái → le ←

→ little → Huang → fast → will → come → asp ←

→ 'Little Huang is coming!' 📢

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- → Agglutinative: one-to-one form-to-meaning mapping, usually with fixed order and showing only regular phonological alternations. ¶