

## **Swahili lexicography in Poland: its history and immediate future**

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*The history of Swahili lexicography in Poland dates back to the sixties, and started not long after African studies were introduced to Polish universities. In 1966, the only Swahili-Polish and Polish-Swahili Dictionary by R. Stopa and B. Garlicki was published. Small, criticized for its serious shortcomings and never updated or reprinted, the dictionary is neither recommended nor available anymore. For years, Polish students of Swahili have had to use Swahili-English, German, Russian or French dictionaries.*

*Given the advances in computer technology and digital humanities, a new effort has been undertaken to change this state of affairs and produce an extensible, updateable, electronic, current and publicly available Swahili-Polish/Polish-Swahili dictionary. It is planned for the entry list of the dictionary to be derived from the Helsinki Corpus of Swahili, pending financial support from the Ministry of Science. Currently, the dictionary format of the dictionary is being developed by the present authors and tested in a small Swahili-English dictionary, encoded in TEI P5 XML.*

*Meanwhile, the same authors are working on releasing a "light" version of the dictionary for the purpose of the FreeDict project, hosting free-licensed bilingual dictionaries in the SourceForge repository. One version has already been published, another is coming out at the end of 2008.*

*The paper will concentrate on the discussion of the current lexicographic principles and approaches to user-friendliness, as implemented in the electronic dictionaries under development. It will also present the grammatical assumptions adopted in our work.*