

Selection 1, Kirundi

Nsanze duhuje

Umugabo yabwiye umwana wiwe ati: "bulletin" yawe sinayishimye na gato. Umwana aramusubiza ati: nanje sinayikunze, mugabo ikinezereje ni uko nsanze duhuje.

Vocabulary

nsanze I find [indicative]

n- = **na-** I

-sanga find, notice that [v-aux with participial complement]

duhuje we agreeing [part]

du- we VERBing [pro-1pl-part]

-huza put in contact, cause to come together; agree

-hura come together, meet; cross (as roads)

umugabo man, adult male; husband, head of the family

[n1-sg; pl: **abagabo**]

yabwiye he told

-a- [marker of preterit or past]

-bwira say s.t.; inform, tell s.o. s.t., recount [v-ditr; perf:

-bwiye]

umwana child, infant, baby [n1-sg; pl: **abana**]

wiwe {Rwanda **we**} his, her

ati he, she said

-ti said [coverb]

bulletin report card {French}

yawe your

sinayishimye I was not satisfied with it [recent past]

si- (I) not VERB

-a- [recent past]

-shima praise, approve of, be satisfied with; thank [v-tr; perf:

-shimye]

-yi- him, her, it [n5-sg-obj]

na gato at all

na [adverb marker]

gato little, a little [adv]

-to small, little; narrow; thin, slender; young [adj-root]

aramusubiza he answers him [narrative]

-ra- [disjunctive preverb, i.e., there is no constituent following the verb]

-subiza answer, reply; return, give s.t. back [v-tr; perf:

-shubije]

-subira return, go back (to some place where one has been before) [v-intr; perf: **-subiye**]

nanje {Rwanda **nanjye**} I also; me too

sinayikunze I did not like it

-kunda like, love [v-tr; perf:

-kunze]

mugabo but, however [conj]

ikinezereje what pleases me [v-rel-auto]

-nezereza please, satisfy, content, amuse, delight; charm [v-caus]

-erer- do VERB for or to s.o.

ni uko it is because [conj-expr]

ni is, are

uko because, due to the fact that [rel-obj-pro-n11-loc]

nsanze that I find [rel]

n- that I, which I [pro-1sg-rel]

Inoti nshyashya

Banki nkuru y'igihugu yatangiye gutanga inoti nshyashya z'amafaranga, 5000, 1000 na 500. Izo noti zashyizweho n'itegeko-teka ryo ku ya 01/12/1998.¹

Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| inoti bill, cash, banknote [n5-sg/pl] | 5000 ibihumbi bitanu |
| nshyashya brand new [Note: RE-DUPLICATION here indicates emphasis or intensity] | 1000 igihumbi |
| -shya {Rwanda -sha } new [adj-root] | na and [conj] |
| banki nkuru y'igihugu the Central Bank | 500 magan'atanu |
| banki bank [n5b-sg-ir; pl: amabanki] | izo these, those G§4 [deic-2-n5-pl] |
| nkuru primary, main, central | zashyizweho they were established [v-ind-pret-pass-perf-cmp] |
| -kuru old; senior; big, major, important, main [adj-root] | -shyiraho install, put in [v-cmp; perf: -shyizeho] |
| y'igihugu of the country | -shyira put, place; deposit [v-tr; perf: -shyize] |
| igihugu country, land [n4-sg; pl: ibihugu] | -we was VERBed [perf pass] |
| yatangiye it started [pret perf] | -ho there (on, off, in, above) [emphasizing proximity or existence, comes after a verb when there is a complement] |
| -tangira begin to VERB [aux, takes inf; perf: -tangiye] | n'itegeko-teka by official decree |
| Cf: -tangira start, commence, begin to do s.t. [v-tr] | itegeko order, command; law, edict [n3-sg; pl: amategeko] |
| gutanga to provide | -tegeka order, establish by law [v-tr; perf: tegetse] |
| -tanga give, offer s.t.; provide [v-tr; perf: -tanze ; Note: the object is the thing given (not to whom s.t. is given)] | -teka sit on the throne; reign |
| z'amafaranga of money | ryo [n3-sg-poss before inf or loc] |
| amafaraanga franc; money [n3-pl; sg: ifaraanga] | ku ya on (a specific date) |
| | ku at, to, on G§2.* |
| | ya of [n5-sg-poss; itariki 'day, date' is understood; see R6] |

¹ December 1, 1998 – order of day and month differs from the US system.

Selection 3, Kirundi

Mwezi Gisabo Yarwaniye Uburundi (nka 1852 – 1908)

Mwezi yari umwami yagerageje kubungabunga ubumwe bw'Uburundi. Mu gihugu yararwanije abagome bagomba kwikebera igihugu, arabatsinda, yarirukanye ibitero vy'Abarabu bashaka kugura abantu, yongera ararwanya Abadagi.

The preverb **-ra-** appears four times in this brief article: **ya-ra-rwanije**, **a-ra-batsinda**, **ya-r-irukanye**, and **a-ra-rwanya**. Its primary function here is to assert the truth about a series of facts.

Vocabulary

Mwezi Gisabo Mwezi Gisabo
(king of Burundi)

Cf: **umwezi** moonlight [n2]

Cf: **ukwezi** moon; month [n9]

Cf: **igisabo** churn (made from a hollowed out gourd) [n4]

yarwaniye he defended [pret perf]

-rwanira defend (s.t. or s.o.), protect; fight for; battle in (a specific place) [v-ben; perf: **-rwanije**]

Cf: **-rwana** fight each other, struggle with one another

Uburundi Burundi

nka about, approximately [adv]

1852 -1908 = **nk'igihumbi kimwe**

n'amajana umunani na

mirongo itanu na kabiri

kugeza ku' gihumbi kimwe

n'amajana icenda n'umunani

yari he was [preterit]

umwami king, lord [n1-sg; pl: **abami**]

yagerageje who tried

y- who [subj rel] {Rwanda w-}

-gerageza try, endeavor, attempt;

test [v-tr; perf: **-gerageje**]

kubungabunga to safeguard

-bungabunga care for, protect, safeguard, secure

ubumwe unity [n8-sg-abs]

-mwe one [num-root]

bw'Uburundi of Burundi

mu in(to), out of, among [loc prep n12 denoting insideneess, within known limits]

yararwanije he fought against

[Note use of **-ra-** even though an object is expressed to assert a fact]

-rwanya fight against, oppose, combat [v-tr; perf: **-rwanije**]

abagome insurgents, rebels [n1-pl; sg: **umugome**]

-goma rebel, revolt [v-tr; perf: **-gomye**]

bagomba who desired [rel impf]

-gomba desire to VERB [v-aux; followed by inf]

Cf: **-gomba** desire, wish, want [v-tr; perf: **-gomvye**]

kwikebera to split up, to divide for themselves

-i- [reflexive verb prefix]

-keba cut, slit, slice [v-tr; perf:

-kevye]

Selection 3, Kirundi

- kebera** cut s.t. for s.o. [v-ben; perf: **-kebeye**]
-ikebera cut s.t. up for oneself; divide or share s.t. among one's selves [v-refl]
arabatsinda he defeats them [narr]
-tsinda win, be successful at; overcome, defeat [v-tr; perf: **-tsinze**]
yarirukanye he pursued [pret]
-r- [form of **-ra-** before a vowel to assert a fact]
-irukana run together; pursue, chase, run after; expel [v-recip; perf: **-irukanye**]
-iruka run; move or do s.t. quickly; [ext] flee, save oneself [v-intr; perf: **-irutse**]
ibitero troops; attacks [n4-pl; sg: **igitero**]
- tera** attack; frighten [v-tr; perf: **-teye**]
vy'Abarabu of Arabs
vy- {Rwanda **by-**} [n4-pl-poss]
Umwarabu Arab [n1-sg]
bashaka who wanted to VERB [rel impf]
-shaka want to VERB [v-aux; perf: **-shatse**]
kugura to buy
-gura buy [v-tr; perf: **-guze**]
abantu people [n1-pl; sg: **umuntu**]
yongera moreover he ...
-ongera VERB moreover or additionally [v-aux governing an indicative construction]
ararwanya he fights against
Abadagi Germans [n1-pl; sg: **Umudagi** {Rwanda **Umudage**}]

Selection 4, Kinyarwanda

Umugore w'Umusomyi

Umugore wari umusomyi w'akagwa yagiye mu nama ya Burugumesitiri, avuyeyo umugabo aramubaza ati "iyi nama yategetse ibiki n'ibiki?" Umugore ati "icy'ibanze ngo twihatire gusoma." Umugabo ati "woweho ni uguhugura."

Vocabulary

- umugore** woman, adult female;
wife [n1-sg; pl: **abagore**]
- umusomyi** heavy drinker [n1-sg]
-**soma** drink (down), take a gulp
(of); imbibe, drink a lot
-**yi** [suffix forming derived nouns
from agentive verbs, often causes
sound changes]
Cf: **umusomyi** reader
Cf: (gu)**soma** 'read' BELOW
- wari** who was
w- he / she who [n1-sg-rel]
- w'akagwa** of banana beer
akagwa banana beer [n7-sg]
- yagiye** she went
-**jya** go (to, towards, in a specific
direction); walk (from a place)
[v-ir; perf: -**giye**]
- nama** meeting
inama counsel, (piece of)
advice; (common) sense;
meeting, council, assembly [n5-
sg/pl]
- Burugumesitiri** mayor,
burgomaster [n1a-sg]
- avuyeyo** she coming back from
there [part imm perf cmp]
-**va** leave, exit, come out (of);
came from (a place); leak, flow
from; bleed [v-intr; perf: -**vuye**]
-**yo** there [postpositional or
enclitic (n13) implying a general
or vague location]
- aramubaza** he asks her [narr]
- baza** ask, question, interrogate;
request (to receive) [v-tr; perf:
-**bajije**]
- iyi** this, that (near you, just
mentioned) [deic-2-n5-sg]
- yategetse** it (the meeting)
established
-**tegeka** order, command, ordain,
promulgate, establish by law [v-
tr; perf: -**tegetse**]
- ibiki n'ibiki** what and what?, what
sort of things?
ibiki what?, which (ones)? [qw-
n4-pl]
-**ki** what?, which? [seeks in-
formation, e.g., s.t. not heard or
understood; also indicates
ignorance, surprise, or
bewilderment]
- icy'ibanze** that which is foremost
[lit: that which relates to priority]
- icy-** the one of, that which
belongs or relates to [n4-sg
nominalized poss; Alt: **icya**]
- ibanze** act which precedes
others, s.t. foremost; [ext]
priority item [n3-sg]
- banza** begin (a series of
actions), do s.t. first, start out
(on) [v-tr; perf: -**banje**]
- ngo** that; so that [conj followed by
the subjunctive mood to show
purpose or intention]
- twihatire** we should make an effort
towards