Swahili
Belongs to the Bantu language family.

Official language in:

- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Democratic Republic of The Congo
- Uganda

Also spoken in other parts of Southeast Africa.
Swahili or Kiswahili means “coastal language”.

By certain estimations:
- As 1st language – 15,000,000
- As 2nd language – 40,000,000

Used as a lingua franca in Southeast Africa.

Originally written in Arabic script, today in Latin.
Swahili appeared in Southeast Africa (Specifically, Tanzania & Kenya) around 1100 AD. A result of the interaction between Bantu and Arabic Traders. During Colonial period, it became an official administrative language in German colonies.
History

- However, European languages were still key to success.
- In the 1960’s, Africa is gradually decolonized; **Swahilization** takes place – becomes the language of the media & education.
* Words influenced by Arabic (20% of spoken language):
  * binadamu – human
  * msumari – nail (מסמר)
  * taslim – payment
  * dakika, saa, juma – minute, hour, week
  * maskini – poor (עני)
  * sita, saba, tisa, ishirini, mia, elfu – 6, 7, 9, 20, 100, 1000
More words:

- **dini** – religion
- **kitabu** – book
- **karibu** – close (קרוב), welcome, you’re welcome..

Influenced also by European languages:

- **wiki** – week
- **familia** – family
Swahili Expressions

* **Kwanza**  –  Sunday
* **Bwana**  –  Mister
* **Jambo**  –  hello
* **Safari**  –  journey
* **Jenga**  –  build!
* **Hakuna Matata**  –  No worries
There are many dialects of Swahili, most of them mutually intelligible. (Some aren’t..)

Writing System – Latin Script. Pronunciation is straightforward.

No tonality (unlike other Bantu languages)
Morphology

- Agglutinative language
- No gender
- Complex Syntax
* Divided to **16 noun classes**.
* Prefix is determined by noun class.
* **Concord** - Noun class of a noun affects **related** parts of the sentence (Adj., Prepositions, ..).
* 6 classes indicate singular nouns.
* 5 classes for plural
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* Verbs consist of a **root** and **affixes**.
* Affixes are added to the root to indicate:
  * person
  * mood
  * aspect
  * negation
  * tense
  * etc..
Tenses

* **Past**
* **Present** – Now, Habits, Habits but not now (rare..).
* **Future**
* **Unfinished tense** – Action completed but influences the present.
* **“Special” tenses**
Translation Tools

- **Google Translate** - [https://translate.google.com/?tl=sw](https://translate.google.com/?tl=sw)
- **ImTranslator.net** – [http://imtranslator.net/translation/english/to-swahili/translation/](http://imtranslator.net/translation/english/to-swahili/translation/)