

A Review of the Oxford Chichewa-English/English-Chichewa Dictionary by Steven Paas

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ABSTRACT

This article reviews the Oxford Chichewa-English/English-Chichewa Dictionary compiled by Steven Paas, published in 2016 by Oxford University Press in Cape Town. Upon a review of the dictionary, a number of issues arise. The dictionary's significance rests in its use as reference material for language learners, its semantic precision and the relevance with which translation and other disciplines treat it. Regardless of its wide coverage of the Chichewa and English lexicons, the dictionary has a number of flaws which are misleading and confusing for the dictionary's users. Such errors include ambiguity over dictionary type, inclusion of proper nouns as lexical entries, lack of detailed grammatical information and silence on morphological typology among others. This paper, therefore, concludes that the dictionary leaves a lot to be desired and recommends that the next edition of the dictionary take into account the highlighted issues.

KEYWORDS

Bilingual Dictionary, Entries, Grammatical Information, Lexicon, Malawi, Noun Class, Phonetic Transcription, Translation

INTRODUCTION

Chichewa is a Bantu language widely spoken in Malawi, Zambia and parts of Mozambique. In Malawi, it is the national language. In Zambia, its rendition is Chinyanja, a term that was the initial rendition of the Chichewa in Malawi in colonial times and the early years of independence.

English on the other hand, though native to an insignificant minority of descendants of colonial administrators and other British, Australian and American immigrants, is extremely important because of its status as an official language. It is the language of education, administration and communication. Knowledge of the two languages is therefore very significant for daily communication as well as effective execution of professional duties in various disciplines.

Such importance has led to attempts at Chichewa/English bilingual dictionaries by various interested stakeholders. The most notable of these attempts has been the creation of the *Oxford Chichewa-English/English-Chichewa Dictionary*. According to Paas (2016), the words and explanations in the dictionary were compiled in 1997. The dictionary contains about 45 000 entries.

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Chichewa English Dictionary Pdf

Ursula Reutner



Chichewa English Dictionary Pdf:

English-Chichewa/Chinyanja Dictionary Steven Paas,2005 There are more than fifteen million native speakers of Chichewa or Chinyanja in Malawi and in parts of Zambia Mozambique Zimbabwe and South Africa thus Chichewa is probably the most widely spoken African language across the regions of Southern and South Central Africa used extensively in the private and public spheres in the family schools government NGOs and media communications This is the first authoritative and most comprehensive dictionary of its kind a notable scholarly endeavour and with major practical applications The dictionary grew from an ad hoc missionary publication of Chichewa English translations from the 1970s but far exceeds the scope of any previous efforts to transcribe the Chichewa language provide accurate English equivalents and reach a popular audience It is a live text taking in native speakers collections of Chichewa vocabulary contemporary usage as well as contributions from scholars in African languages and it pays heed to the close interaction between Chichewa and English and how the languages influence one another when both are widely spoken In Africa it aims to be the first popular Chichewa English dictionary for all levels of language use outside Africa it is aimed at foreign visitors and workers dealing with the Chichewa languages in professional and tourist capacities in government and NGO communities the media academia and in specialist fields such as medicine information technology and the law From Home and Exile Woods, Joanna,2014-12-04

This book is about home With Malawi as its focus it seeks to understand ideas about home as expressed through poetry written by Malawians in English Although African Literatures are studied those of Malawi have not received agreeable attention This book surveys poetry by five Malawian writers Felix Mnthali Frank Chipasula Jack Mapanje Lupenga Mphande and Steve Chimombo The discussion negotiates scribed experience of exile engendered by Dr Banda s regime and shows that the selected poets effectively converse with a sense of home reflecting on its transformations in their work Interrogating the strict definitions of home the argument highlights that far from home less exiles in fact clarify the sense of what home is The manoeuvre is one of thinking towards an unboundaried home This book will be of value not only to readers interested in the cultures of Africa but to all those with an interest in worldwide literary phenomena and ideas therein of home and exile

The African Book Publishing Record ,2007 The Oxford Guide to the Bantu Languages Lutz Marten, Ellen Hurst-Harosh, Nancy C. Kula, Jochen Zeller,2025 This volume brings together leading scholars from the African continent and beyond to provide a detailed account of the languages of the Bantu family The book will be an essential resource for students and researchers specializing in the Bantu languages and for typologists and comparative linguists more broadly Manual of Romance Languages in Africa Ursula Reutner,2023-12-18 With more than two thousand languages spread over its territory multilingualism is a common reality in Africa The main official languages of most African countries are Indo European in many instances Romance As they were primarily brought to Africa in the era of colonization the areas discussed in this volume are thirty five states that were once ruled by Belgium France Italy Portugal or Spain and the African regions still

belonging to three of them Twenty six states are presented in relation to French four to Italian six to Portuguese and two to Spanish They are considered in separate chapters according to their sociolinguistic situation linguistic history external language policy linguistic characteristics and internal language policy The result is a comprehensive overview of the Romance languages in modern day Africa It follows a coherent structure offers linguistic and sociolinguistic information and illustrates language contact situations power relations as well as the cross fertilization and mutual enrichment emerging from the interplay of languages and cultures in Africa

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The Linguistic Cycle : Language Change and the Language Faculty Department of English Arizona State University Elly van Gelderen Regents' Professor,2011-04-08 Elly van Gelderen provides examples of linguistic cycles from a number of languages and language families along with an account of the linguistic cycle in terms of minimalist economy principles A cycle involves grammaticalization from lexical to functional category followed by renewal Some well known cycles involve negatives where full negative phrases are reanalyzed as words and affixes and are then renewed by full phrases again Verbal agreement is another example full pronouns are reanalyzed as agreement markers and are renewed again Each chapter provides data on a separate cycle from a myriad of languages Van Gelderen argues that the cross linguistic similarities can be seen as Economy Principles present in the initial cognitive system or Universal Grammar She further claims that some of the cycles can be used to classify a language as analytic or synthetic and she provides insight into the shape of the earliest human language and how it evolved

The Bantu Bibliography Jouni Maho,2008 **The Linguistic Cycle** Elly van Gelderen,2011 Elly van Gelderen examines the linguistic cycle and describes how it offers a unique perspective on the language faculty

The Conjoint/Disjoint Alternation in Bantu Jenneke van der Wal,Larry M. Hyman,2016-12-19 This volume brings together

descriptions and analyses of the conjoint disjoint alternation a typologically significant phenomenon found in many Bantu languages The chapters provide in depth documentation comparative studies and theoretical analyses of the alternation from a range of Bantu languages showing its crosslinguistic variation in constituent structure morphology prosody and information structure *Chichewa/Chinyanja-English Dictionary* Steven Paas,2004 *African Research & Documentation* ,2017

Making Multilingual Education a Reality for All Association for the Development of African Languages in Education, Science, and Technology. International Conference,2004 **Chichewa-English Dictionary** Josep M. Massana,2000

Chichewa-English/English-Chichewa Dictionary Steven Paas,2017 *Chichewa Language* Dalitso Cheelo,2016-06-04 This guide to Chichewa language collects the most common Chichewa phrases and expressions as well as an English Chichewa Chichewa English dictionary This phrasebook includes greetings food items directions sightseeing and many other categories of expressions that will help anyone wanting to learn Chichewa This phrasebook is a must for anyone wanting to learn Chichewa [The student's English-Chichewa dictionary](#) ,1975 *Dictionary - Mtanthauziramawu* Steven Paas,2012 The English language has acquired an important position in the societies of Central and Southern Africa but for more than 15 million people in Malawi Tanzania Zambia Mozambique Botswana Zimbabwe and South Africa Chinyanja or Chichewa has become the most important language of daily life This edition has more than 43 000 entries from and into English [A Learner's Chichewa and English Dictionary](#) Robert Dale Olson Botne,Andrew Tilimbe Clement Kulemeka,1995

[English / Chichewa Dictionary](#) John C Rigdon,2020-06-03 Chewa also known as Nyanja is a Bantu language spoken by 12 million people in much of Southern Southeast and East Africa namely the countries of Malawi and Zimbabwe where it is an official language and Mozambique and Zambia where it is a recognised minority language The noun class prefix chi is used for languages so the language is usually called Chichewa and Chinyanja spelled Cinianja in Mozambique In Malawi the name was officially changed from Chinyanja to Chichewa in 1968 at the insistence of President Hastings Kamuzu Banda himself of the Chewa people and this is still the name most commonly used in Malawi today In Zambia the language is generally known as Nyanja or Cinyanja Chinyanja language of the lake referring to Lake Malawi This English Chichewa and Chichewa English Dictionary Chingerezi Chichewa Dikishonale contains 15 000 entries It is based on our Words R Us Wordnet implementation www.wordsrus.info which enables pairing the Chichewa language with hundreds of others It was created using dozens of sources including academic papers on the language as well as native speakers

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