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Personal details

Name: Dr. Tom O. Abuom

Address: Kenyatta University
Dept. of Special Needs Education
P.O. Box 43844—00100 NAIROBI

E-mail: abuom.tom@ku.ac.ke

Area of specialization:

Speech and Language Pathology; Clinical Linguistics; Neurolinguistics/Aphasiology.

Research Interests:

Communication disorders in children and adults; Aphasia

Education Background

2009-2013 Ph.D. in Clinical Linguistics
University of Groningen (RUG), the Netherlands

2007-2009 MSc. Clinical Linguistics
University of Potsdam, Germany

MA. General Linguistics
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

2002-2006 B.Ed. in English Language, Literature & Linguistics
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, USA

Diploma in Religious Studies, Tangaza University College of CUEA-
Nairobi

Work Experience

2015 July- Present Lecturer, Department of Early Childhood & Special Needs,
Kenyatta University

2014 Aug- 2015 July Lecturer, Department of Linguistics & Foreign Languages, Moi
University

2013 Nov- Present Lecturer (Adjunct Faculty), Department of English, Catholic
University of Eastern Africa

2009- 2013 Researcher, Neurolinguistics Research Group-Department of

Linguistics, University of Groningen-Netherlands.

Project: Verb and word order deficits in Swahili-English

bilingual agrammatic speakers.

2011-2013 Guest Lecturer, European Masters Programme in Clinical Linguistics (EMCL), University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

2006- 2007 Teacher, St. Mary's High School, Nyeri-Kenya.

Administrative/ Other Responsibilities

2021-Present Coordinator of postgraduate Studies (MA programs), EC & SNE Department, KU

2019 -2021 Coordinator of DSVOL Program, EC & SNE Department, KU

2016 -2019 Coordinator of Examinations, Special Needs Department, KU

2016- 2020 Advisor of Diploma students, Special Needs Department, KU

2010- 2011 Coordinator of Neurolinguistics Research Group, University of Groningen, Netherlands.

Scholarship Awards

2009 Ubbo Emmius Fellowship, a PhD Research scholarship from University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

2007 Erasmus Mundus Scholarship from European Union for European Masters of Clinical Linguistics, University of Potsdam, Germany.

Publications

Licandro, U., **Abuom, T.** & Omari, D. (In Press). Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Children with Language Disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa – Approaches to Service Delivery. In Ulrike M. Lüdtke, Edward Kija, Mathew Kinyua Karia. "*Handbook of Communication Disabilities and Language Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*". Springer Publishers.

Araka S. G, **Abuom, T.** 2 , Karia, M. (2021). Assessment of Effects of Post Laryngeal Cancer Treatment on Voice Function and Communication of Laryngeal Cancer Survivors at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science, volume 26, Issue 10, Series 4, 13-21* e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.

Abong'o A. P, **Abuom, T.** & Muthee, J. (2021). Voice Disorders and Their Psychosocial Impact on Laryngeal Cancer Patients and Their Families: A Case of Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi City County– Kenya. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science, volume 26, Issue 6, Series 14, 39-45.* e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.

Owaga, B., Nzoka S. & **Abuom, T.** (2019). Psychological Dispositions of Depression and Academic Performance of Learners with Visual Impairment in Selected Special Primary Schools in Kenya. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation (IJRSI)*,6, 187-192. ISSN 2321–2705

Munyi, A., **Abuom, T.** & Karia, M. (2018). The Extent of Knowledge Possessed by Teachers to Enhance Communication Skills of Learners with Speech and Language Disorders, A Case of Joy Town, Kiambu County, Kenya. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 6, 343-352. ISSN 2348-3156 (Print), ISSN 2348-3164 (online)

Obure, S.O., Karia, M. & **Abuom, T.O.** (2018). Caregivers' Extent of Involvement in Early Intervention for Children with Speech and Language Disorders in Tenwek Hospital, Bomet County, Kenya. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 6, 13-21. ISSN 2348-3156 (Print), ISSN 2348-3164 (online)

Obure, S.O., **Abuom, T.O.** & Karia, M. (2018). Caregivers' Needs for Involvement in Early Intervention for Children with Speech and Language Disorders in Tenwek Hospital, Bomet County, Kenya. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 6, 6-12). ISSN 2348-3156 (Print), ISSN 2348-3164 (online)

Abuom, T.O. (2013). Verb and word order deficits in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. (Doctoral Dissertation, University of Groningen). *Groningen Dissertations in Linguistics (GRODIL)*,119. ISBN: 978-90-367-6264-9

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2013). Sentence Production in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. *Aphasiology*, 27, 921-937.

Abuom, T., Bastiaanse, R. & Shah, E. (2013). Sentence Comprehension in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. *Journal of Clinical linguistics & Phonetics*, 27, 355-370.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2013). Production and Comprehension of Reference of Time in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. *Aphasiology*, 27, 157-177.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2012). Effects of brain damage on sentence comprehension: Evidence from Swahili-English bilinguals with Agrammatic Broca's aphasia. *Stem-, Spraak- en Taalpathologie (Journal of Voice-, Speech- and Language pathology)* 17, 11-14.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R (2012). Asyntactic Comprehension in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. In proceedings of the NeuroPsychoLinguistic Perspectives on Aphasia (NPL) Conference. Toulouse: University of Toulouse. pp.107-109.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2012). Characteristics of Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic Spontaneous speech & the consequences for understanding agrammatic aphasia. *Journal of Neurolinguistics* 25, 276-293.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2011). Time reference deficits in Swahili-English agrammatic speakers. In proceedings of the 12th Science of Aphasia Conference. Barcelona: University of Barcelona. pp.14-17.

Abuom, T., Obler, L.& Bastiaanse, R (2011). Using Swahili and English to test explanations of Agrammatism. *Aphasiology* 25 (5), 559-575.

Seminar/Conference Presentations

Abuom, T. & Cheruiyot C. (2017). The production of word order and bound grammatical morphemes in Swahili agrammatic speakers: An Analysis of Swahili Spontaneous speech. A paper presented at PAGEL Workshop on Multiple Disorders and Augmentative and Alternative Communication held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya on 5-9 June, 2017.

Obure, E., Karia, M. & **Abuom, T.** (2017). Caregivers Involvement for Effective Early Intervention for Children with Speech/language Disorders in Tenwek Hospital, Bomet County. Proceeding of the 6th East African International Conference on Communication Disability held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya on 10th -11th February, 2017.

Munyi, A., **Abuom, T.** & Karia. M. (2017). Teacher Involvement in Enhancing Communication Skills of Children with Speech and Language Disorders in Joy Town Primary School in Kiambu-Kenya. Proceedings of the 6th East African International Conference on Communication Disability held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya on 10th -11th February, 2017.

Munyoki, P. C., Karia. M. & **Abuom, T.** (2017). Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury on the Quality of Life among the Kenya Defence Forces. Proceeding of the 6th East African International Conference on Communication Disability held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya on 10th -11th February, 2017.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R (2013). Production of Word Orders in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. Presentation at the 11th International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, Tenerife, Canary Islands-Spain, March 20-23.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2012). Effects of brain damage on sentence comprehension: Evidence from Swahili-English bilinguals with Broca's aphasia. Presentation at the 13th International Science of Aphasia Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands, September 7-12.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R (2012). Asyntactic Comprehension in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. Presentation at the NPL-Aphasia Conference, Toulouse, France, June 21-23.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2012). Effects of brain damage on sentence comprehension: Evidence from Swahili-English bilinguals with Broca's aphasia. Poster presented at the Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences' (BCN) New Year meeting, Groningen, The Netherlands, February 2.

Abuom, T., Bastiaanse, R & Shah, E. (2012). Asyntactic Comprehension in Swahili-English bilinguals with Broca's aphasia. Talk given at the 4th East African Speech & Language Therapy Conference, Kampala, Uganda, January 12-15.

Abuom, T. & Bastiaanse, R. (2011). Time reference deficits in Swahili-English agrammatic speakers. Talk given at the 12th International Science of Aphasia Conference, Barcelona, Spain, September 1-5.

Abuom, T., Obler, L.& Bastiaanse, R. (2011). The processing of time reference in bilingual Individuals with broca's aphasia. Talk given at TABU DAG Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands, June 17-18.

Abuom, T., Obler, L.& Bastiaanse, R. (2011). Time reference deficits in Swahili-English bilinguals with broca's aphasia. Talk given at the Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences' (BCN) Retreat, Odoorn, The Netherlands, March 17-18.

Abuom, T., Obler, L.& Bastiaanse, R. (2011). Time reference in Swahili-English bilingual agrammatic speakers. Presentation at the Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences' (BCN) New Year meeting, Groningen, The Netherlands, February 17.

Abuom, T., Obler, L.& Bastiaanse, R. (2010). Using Swahili and English to test explanations of Agrammatism. Presentation at the 11th International Science of Aphasia Conference, Potsdam, Germany, August 27-31.

Seminar/workshops attended

International Annual Conference on Education and Life Long Learning - School of Education, Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya from 6th - 7th October 2021.

PAGEL Workshop on Multiple Disorders and Augmentative and Alternative Communication held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya on 5-9 June, 2017.

Management and Administration of a Speech Clinic: Interface of SLP Practice, Training and Research. PAGEL Workshop held at Leibniz University of Hannover (LUH) - Germany from 16th September – 2nd October, 2016.

CARTA Supervisors workshop on supporting and improving research training among promising fellows in the partner institutions, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, November 22-28, 2015

Epidemiology and applied statistics workshop by Prof. H.M. Boezen, Graduate School for Drug Exploration, University Medical Center Groningen, November 5-16, 2012.

Project management workshop by Prof. Paul Luten and Prof. Menno Gerkema, Graduate School of Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Groningen, May 15-16, 2012.

Publishing in English (Academic writing) by Dr. D.M. Black, Graduate School of Medical Science, University Medical Center Groningen, February 3- April 8, 2012.

Aphasia Bank workshop by Prof. Brian MacWhinney, 8-9 June, Groningen, The Netherlands 2010.

Tabu Dag Linguistic International conference, 3-4 June, Groningen, The Netherlands 2010

International PhD workshop on Grammar and Aphasia, 18-19 September, Groningen, The Netherlands 2009.

Seminar, Clinical Neurology and Rehabilitation for Clinical Linguists, by Stephan Bamborschke MD, 21-23 April, Brandenburg Clinic, Bernau, Germany 2008.

Seminar, Agrammatism: Evidence and Theory, Dr. Loraine Obler, the City University of New York Bilingual Aphasia, Dr. Shyamala Chengappa, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing Language Impairments in Children and Adolescents, Dr. Dorit Ravid, Tel Aviv University June 1 – 30, Potsdam, Germany 2008.

International PhD workshop on Cross-linguistic Aspects of Aphasia July 4-5, Campus Griebnitzsee, Potsdam, Germany 2008.

Postgraduate Research Supervision (completed)

MA thesis: ‘Effects of Velopharyngeal Insufficiency on Quality of Life of Adults with Repaired Cleft Palate in Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya.’ Irene Gatwiri Bundi, KU (Completed 2021)

MA thesis: ‘Assessment of Effects of Post Laryngeal Cancer Treatment on Voice Function and Communication of Laryngeal Cancer Survivors at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya.’ Salome Gatakaa Araka, KU. (Completed 2021)

MA thesis: ‘Voice Disorders and Their Psychosocial Impact On Laryngeal Cancer Patients and Their Families: A Case of Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi City County– Kenya.’ Abong’o Anyango Pheny, KU. (Completed 2021)

MA thesis: ‘Caregivers Involvement in Early Intervention Programs for Children with Speech and/or Language Disorders in Bomet County, Kenya’ by Erick Obure. KU. (Completed 2019)

MA thesis: ‘Teacher Involvement in Enhancing Communication Skills of Learners with Speech and Language Disorders, Kiambu County’ by Alucia Munyi Thaara, KU. (Completed 2019)

MA thesis: ‘Influence of Emotional and Behavioural Disorders on Academic Performance of Learners with Visual Impairment in Selected Special Primary Schools, Kenya’ by Bertha Owaga, KU. (Completed 2019)

MA thesis: ‘Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury on The Quality of Life among the Kenya Defence Forces’ by Charles Munwoki Peter, KU. (Completed 2019)

MA thesis: ‘Phonological adaptation of English loanwords in Lukabras’ by Loice Mukulo, Moi University-Eldoret (completed 2015).

MA thesis: ‘The production of word order and bound grammatical morphemes in Swahili agrammatic speakers’ by Caroline Cheruiyot (a student of European Masters in Clinical Linguistics), University of Groningen-Netherlands (completed 2013).

MA thesis: ‘Verb and argument production in bilingual agrammatic aphasia: An analysis of English-Swahili spontaneous speech’ by H. K. Sang (a student of European Masters in Clinical Linguistics), University of Groningen-Netherlands (completed 2010).

Postgraduate Research Supervision (Ongoing)

Phd thesis: ‘Communication problems in children identified with psychiatric disorders’ by Hilary Sang, Moi University.

Phd thesis: ‘Relevance Of Speech Training For Improved Academic Performance Of Learners With Hearing Impairment In Kiambu and Kisumu Counties, Kenya’ by Samuel Onyango Acheru, KU.

MA thesis: ‘Effectiveness of Early Intervention on Speech and Language Development of Children with Hearing Impairment in Nakuru County, Kenya’ by Jackline Okinyi, KU.

MA thesis: ‘Efficacy of Early Intervention on preschool Children with Delayed Speech and Language. A Case of Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital, Nairobi County’ Dorica Magoma Chore, KU.

Membership of Committees/Boards

Kiwanja Secondary School Community Outreach Committee (Sep 2021)

School board of postgraduate studies, School of Education (2021-Present).

Committee to monitor, Review and Respond to ongoing educational and curriculum reforms in Kenya: KU research teams on CBC (2019)

Organizing Committee of the 6th East African International Conference on Communication Disability (9th-12th February 2017 at KUCC)

Departmental Board of Examiners for Postgraduate Studies, EC & Special Needs Dept.(2015-present)

School Board of Examiners, School of Education (2016 -2019)

Reviewer for proposal for KU VC research grant (2016)

PAGEL Project- Establishment of speech clinic and clinical capacity building in East Africa. (Knowledge Transfer by Global Unity)-Funded by DAAD through a collaboration between Leibniz University of Hannover, Kenyatta University-Kenya, Muhimbili University-Tanzania & Kymbogo University-Uganda. (2015 to 2018)

Other Duties

External examiner for postgraduate theses at Moi University, Eldoret (2019-present).

Development & Implementation of Masters SLP Curriculum, Kenyatta, University (2015-Present)

Development & Implementation of Masters SLP Curriculum, Moi University (2014-2015)