



Contribution ID: 8

Type: Abstract for Research Paper

semantic and morphological idiosyncrasies; A Case Study of Mbusii and LionDe,Teketeke Radio Show

This study investigated morphological and semantic idiosyncrasies witnessed in Teke-Teke Radio Show presented by Mbusii and lion De, a Radio Jambo, English cum Kiswahili prime time production. This study was informed by the observation of acute deviations from linguistic regularities in respect to the Kenyan lingo at the morphological and semantic levels by the two presenters and its fan base. These idiosyncrasies witnessed in the two presenters it was noted had permeated into the linguistic repertoire not only of their fan base but of some cadre of the general Kenyan populace, thus in some way this repertoire it notably was slowly turning into a sociolect of some kind. This study sought to illustrate linguistic idiosyncrasy as a phenomenon which is alive and very relevant in the Kenyan sociolinguistic geography, this study further sought to illustrate linguistic idiosyncrasy as precursor to language change at the level of a speech community, this was evidenced by the proliferation of the linguistic peculiarities observed in the show to general language use among some section of the Kenyan populace .The researcher purposely sampled over twenty peculiar lexical items and idiomatic expressions from the show and using a qualitative approach the researcher undertook a morphological and a semantic analysis of the items in order to document their deviations from the linguistic regularities . The research further made a survey of the presence of the aforesaid items in regular language use by its fan base and other Kenyans in regular talk, this was aimed at showing a link between linguistic idiosyncrasy and language change which is a universal property of human language. This study will therefore go a long way in giving evidence of morphological and semantic idiosyncrasies in language use and it will also cement the notion of idiosyncrasy as precursor of language change.

Keywords

idiosyncrasy, semantic deviation, morphological deviation,malapropism,loan tfranslation,coinage,compounding

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Track Classification: Language and Linguistics