

ALICE WANJIRA KIAI

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OBJECTIVE

To research and develop educational and creative materials, especially language learning materials

EDUCATION

2008 to date PhD in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics (in progress)

Centre for Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick

Thesis title: Biography of an English language textbook in Kenya: A journey from conceptualization to the classroom

1996 MA in Linguistics

Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Nairobi

Dissertation title: A discourse analysis of educational radio programmes to farmers: Adaptations in register

1994 BEd in Linguistics and Literature

College of Education and External Studies, University of Nairobi

Second Class Honours, Upper Division

SCHOLARSHIPS

2008 Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholarship under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for PhD in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics

1995 International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Radio Listening Groups project-related award for MA in Linguistics

WORK EXPERIENCE

2002 - 2008 Lecturer

1999 - 2001 Assistant Lecturer

1998 - 1999 Tutorial Fellow

English Department, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)

Teaching: Courses taught to BEd students in the Department of English include Introduction to the Study of Language, English for Academic Purposes, Origins and Development of English, Varieties of English, Second

Language Learning, General Linguistics, English Structure and Semantics. I have taught Communication Skills, a common undergraduate course, to students in other departments.

Administration: Head of the Department of English (2003-2008);
Course Coordinator, Access (Pre-university) Programme (2002-2003);
Course Coordinator, Communication Skills (1998-2002).

1997 **Teacher**
Consolata School, Nairobi
Teaching: Teacher of English
Administration: Class teacher, Form 1

1994 - 1996 **Research Assistant**
Radio Listening Groups Project, University of Nairobi
Roles: Library research, coding data, and office administration

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

2002 - 2008 Patron, Language Arts Club, CUEA
2001 - 2004 Recording Secretary at three workshops/seminars, CUEA
2001 Judge, Jomo Kenyatta Prize in Literature, Kenya Publishers' Association
2000 - 2008 Member of Editorial Board, *Eastern Africa Journal of Humanities and Sciences*, CUEA
1998 - 2008 Undergraduate Research Projects Supervisor, CUEA
1998 - 2007 Teaching Practice Supervisor, CUEA

SKILLS

Research

I gained practical experience and insights into the research process, with a focus on qualitative investigation. My study required the following:

- Development of semi-structured interview guides, interviews, audio-recording, transcription, and thematic analysis
- Document analysis. In particular, I am familiar with Littlejohn's framework for materials analysis, which I used for analysis of textbook content
- Classroom observation of materials use
- Questionnaire design for preliminary work among teachers, and for foundational work among learners, which I analysed using descriptive statistics

I also attended graduate skills sessions, the topics of which included the following:

- Creating a literature review/literature searching techniques
- Developing a critical argument: The PEA Matrix

- Managing research material and ideas: The methodology of evaluation and selection
- Engaging the reader: Writing text that is interesting to read; coherence and unity

Teaching

In the last few years, my main teaching focus has been in the area of second language learning. This, together with my writing interest, has inspired the subject of my thesis and my research focus.

Writing

I have gained academic and creative skills in the course of work and study, as evidenced by my publications and work and research experiences.

Management and Organisation

Skills gained in the course of work include record keeping, negotiation, budgeting, programme development, time management, and planning.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 02/04/2011** *Textbook development as a cyclical process.* An oral presentation at BAAL/SiG, Coventry University
- 06/02/2011** *English language coursebook selection in a newly liberalized market.* An oral presentation at MATSDA/QUEEN'S University, Belfast (6 February, 2011)
- 16/05/2009** *An analysis of secondary school English textbooks in Kenya: The interpretation & 17/06/2009 of 'integration'.* An oral presentation at The 7th British Universities Postgraduate Research Conference: Language Learning Principles & Materials Development, Leeds Metropolitan University and at the 12th Warwick Postgraduate Conference in Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick

PUBLICATIONS

Class Readers for Primary School Pupils/Children

- Kiai, A. (2006). *Neema and the Bird*. Nairobi: Longhorn Publishers (K) Ltd. (Keynote Primary English Supplementary class reader)
- Kiai, A. (2003). *Koi and the Dirty Road*. Nairobi: Longhorn Publishers (K) Ltd. (Keynote Primary English Supplementary class reader)
- Kiai, A. (2003). *Nana's Eyes*. Nairobi: Longhorn Publishers (K) Ltd. (Keynote Primary English Supplementary class reader)

Textbooks for Secondary School Students

Kiai, A., Oduor, B. & Owuor, E. *New Horizons in English: A Course for Secondary Schools*. Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers. (Students' Books 1-4, 2003 - 2005)

Teacher's Guides

Kiai, A., Oduor, B. & Owuor, E. *New Horizons in English: A Course for Secondary Schools*. Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers. (*Teachers' Book 1-4*, 2003 - 2005)

Munungi, M. & Kiai, A. (1998). *A Guide to Looking for a Rain God and other short stories from Africa*. Longhorn Publishers (K) Ltd.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

- Member of the *International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL)*
- Member of *Kenya Non-Fiction and Academic Authors' Association (KENFAA)*, a forum which aims at promoting a reading culture and protecting writers' professional and financial interests

VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

- Participation in the Abstracts and Programme Committee for the 12th Warwick Postgraduate Conference in Applied Linguistics
- Participation in the annual literacy week at Oshwal Academy, Nairobi to encourage a reading culture among the youth
- Participation in readings by AMKA: Space for women's creativity, a forum for women writers, both published and unpublished to discuss and improve their writing