

Obadele B. Kambon

Curriculum Vitae

BIO DATA

Name: Obadele Bakari Kambon

Age: 30

Date of Birth: June 16, 1979

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, New York, United States of America

Address for communication: PO Box AT 918, Achimota, Accra, Ghana, West Africa

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Email: akyeame_kwame@yahoo.com

Citizenship: United States Citizen

Hobbies / Interests: Linguistics, Language teaching, language learning, Capoeira, outdoor activities

Marriage Status: Unmarried

Last Salary drawn: 35,000 USD

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African proverbs in social discourse; Second Language Acquisition; African Language Pedagogy; African Language Curriculum and Resource Development; Issues of Translation in African Languages; African Language Poetry and Oral Literature; Theoretical Generative Linguistics focusing on Serial Verb constructions in African languages and the influence of temporal sequencing (Iconicity) on surface syntactic structures and word formation processes in African Languages; Historical Linguistics focusing on reconstructions of Proto-Benue-Kwa and daughter languages Akan, Yoruba, Wolof and Kikongo. African Languages in the Atlantic World.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, University of Ghana at Legon, Accra, West Africa. 2009-Present.

MA Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. 2002-2005.

MA Department of African Languages and Literature, minor in Linguistics. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. 2002-2005.

BA (*magna cum laude*) African American Studies in the Department of History, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA. 1997-2002.

MA thesis research topic: *Recurrent Sound Correspondences of Akan and Yoruba and their Significance for Proto-Benue-Kwa (East Volta-Congo) C1 Reconstruction.*

TEACHING/EXPERIENCE

Translator: The Big Word, UK. December 2009.

Translations of government and corporate documents as a freelance translator for The Big Word.

Instructor: Conversational Yoruba AKALI, Online, Spring 2006-Present.

Medium (50 Students) 8 class sessions focused on Conversing in the Yoruba Language and learning the Afrikan Worldview.

Instructor: Conversational Akan (Twi) AKALI, Online, Fall 2006-Present.

Medium (50 Students) 8 class session focused on Conversing in the Akan Language and learning the Afrikan Worldview.

Instructor: Conversational Wolof AKALI, Online, Fall 2007-Present.

Small (5 Students) 8 class session focused on Conversing in the Wolof Language and learning the Afrikan Worldview.

Interpreter: Sankofa Journey, Ghana, West Africa, 2007-Present.

(Professional translation and interpretation services group of 9 traveling throughout Akan-speaking areas of Ghana).

Interpreter: Professional Twi Interpretation for Psychological Evaluation March 7, 2008

Dr. Paul Pasulka, Chicago, IL.

Transperfect.

Instructor: Introductory Akan (Twi), Chicago State University, Fall 2007- Spring 2008

Medium (33 Students) Fall-Spring Semester classes focused on Conversing in the Akan Language and learning the Afrikan Worldview.

Instructor: Introductory Akan (Twi), Dusable Leadership Academy, Fall 2007

Small (8 Students) Fall Semester class session focused on Conversing in the Akan Language and learning the Afrikan Worldview.

Instructor: Elementary KiSwahili, Chicago, Charles Hamilton Houston, August 2007-Spring 2008.

Large (50+ Students in total) Greetings and basic conversational elements of KiSwahili in addition to broader discussions of the significance of Afrikan culture, worldview and socialization systems.

Instructor: Elementary KiSwahili, Chicago, Winnie Mandela Alternative High School, April 10, 2007-Spring 2008.

Large (50+ Students in total) Greetings and basic conversational elements of KiSwahili in addition to broader discussions of the significance of Afrikan culture, worldview and socialization systems.

Instructor: Intensive Wolof Language Classes, Chicago + Senegal Summer 2007 with Live Webcast, May 20 and June 2, 2007.

Small (9 Students) Intensive Wolof language workshops for a group of professionals and students traveling to Senegal, The Gambia and Paris.

Interpreter: Professional Yoruba Interpretation for Legal Deposition Feb. 5, 2007

Law Firm of Bollinger, Ruberry and Garvey, Chicago IL. Stone vs. UPS.

First Metro Translation Services, Inc.

Instructor: Conversational Akan (Asante Twi), Malcolm X College, Chicago, IL, Fall 2006

Small (5 students) 6 class session focusing on basic conversation, numbers, greetings, proverbs, culture, spirituality and worldview.

Instructor: African Communications, Northeastern University, Chicago, IL, Fall 2006-Summer 2006.

Small (13 Students) 13 Week Introduction to various verbal and non-verbal communication systems in Africa and the Diaspora.

Teaching Assistant: Introduction to African Languages and Literature (AFR 201), UW-Madison, Fall 2005

Large (100 students) Comprehensive survey of African Languages and Literature.

Teaching Assistant: Elementary Yoruba (AFR 372) UW-Madison, Fall 2004

Medium (<15 students) First Semester Introduction to the Yoruba Language.

Teaching Assistant: Intermediate Yoruba (AFR 373) UW-Madison, Fall 2004

Small (<10 students) Third Semester Intermediate Yoruba.

Instructor Akan (Twi) Akoben Institute, Atlanta, GA, Fall 2001-Spring 2002

Medium (<30 students) Instructing Elementary Junior High and High School Students.

Instructor Akan (Twi) Nsoromma School, Atlanta, GA, Fall 2001-Spring 2002

Medium (<20 students) Instructing Youths from 5-13.

SERVICE

Capoeira Teacher. University of Ghana at Legon. 2009.

Free instruction of Capoeira, the African martial art as practiced in Brazil.

Capoeira Demonstration. Charles Hamilton Houston High School. March 4, 2008.

Free talk on the history of Capoeira and interactive presentation for 80+ alternative high school students.

Creator of Winnie Mandela Alternative High School Handbook. September 9, 2007.

Donation of graphic design services to a local school working in the community.

Betty Shabazz, History Fair Volunteer Judge. March 2007.

A volunteer position in which one of the projects judged went on to state finals.

Founding Administrator of AKALI Resource Center. August 2006-Present

A free service providing resources in African languages.

Betty Shabazz International Charter School Volunteer, A World of Possibilities with

Danny Glover, DuSable Museum, April 29, 2006.

Founding Moderator of African Language, Philosophy and Worldview Forum Spring 2005-2006

NCOLCTL Conference Session Chair UW-Madison, Spring 2005

Academic Development Chair UW-Madison, Fall 2004-Present

Black Graduate and Professional Student Organization (BGPSO)

Founding Coordinator, Quilombo Video Lecture Series UW-Madison 2003-Present

Forum for discussing African-centered videos and Articles in conjunction with BGPSO including joint projects with Black Law Students Association

Founding Member, Dikenga Collective Madison, Wisconsin, Fall 2005

A collective focused on raising the consciousness of formerly incarcerated Africans.

Volunteer, World Languages Day UW-Madison, Spring 2005

TALKS

“What Black Studies Can Do for You.” A talk on how Africana Studies can create opportunities in one’s life. Chicago State University. September 27, 2006.

“Linguistic Connections between Akan, Yoruba and Mdw Ntr.” Teaching About Africa Professional Development Seminar Series. Kemet Institute. Northeastern Illinois University. March 18, 2006.

“The Role of Yoruba Greetings in the Yoruba (Afrikan) Worldview.” A talk of the significance of greetings in Yoruba culture and worldview. Malcolm X College. February 14, 2006.

“Oral and Written Linguistic Connections between Akan, Yoruba, Wolof, KiKongo and Mdw Ntr.” A lecture presented in Intro to African Languages. UW-Madison. October 24, 2005.

“Faculty of Language: what is it, who has it and how did it evolve?” Seminar on Syntax. UW-Madison. October 10, 2005.

“Kae: Remember”: A presentation and performance of Akan Poetry. Summer Cooperative African Language Institute. Indiana University. August 5, 2005.

“Yoruba Greetings and the Yoruba (African) Worldview”: A talk of the significance of greetings in Yoruba culture. World Languages Day. UW-Madison. April 20, 2005.

“Nzadi Ka Yena Wonga Ko: The River is Unafraid”: A presentation and performance of KiKongo Poetry. Summer Cooperative African Language Institute. Ohio University. August 10, 2004.

Iwa-pele and Iwa rere: Yoruba Conceptions of Good Character (in honor of Baba Jedi Shemsu Djehewty aka Dr. Jacob Carruthers). 21 st Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC) Conference, Malcolm X College, Chicago, IL. May 2004.

“Oran San Joran: One problem is worse than another”: A presentation and performance of Yoruba Poetry. National Council on Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) and African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) Joint Conference. UW-Madison. May 2, 2004.

“Cultural Unity of Worldview and Ethos in the Akan and Yoruba Oral Narrative Traditions.” Seminar on African Mythology. UW-Madison. November 17, 2003.

“The Importance of Reclaiming African Language/Worldview and the Responsibility of the African Language Teacher.” National African Language Resource Center Summer Teacher Training and Curriculum Development Institute. UW-Madison. June 27, 2003.

"Ona La": A Stylistic Analysis of Jimi Solanke's Poetry. African Languages and Literature Graduate Student Colloquium, April 29, 2003.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Highly Qualified Teacher. Passed Illinois State Board of Education Basic Skills Test (291/300) and English Subject Area Test (275/300), 2007. Currently Pursuing Certification.

Betty Shabazz International Charter School Community Shule Grant
50% Subsidy to teach Akan and Yoruba
Spring 2006-Fall 2006
Funding for Teaching the Akan (Twi) and Yoruba languages.

Golden Key Honor Society 2002-Present

FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Indiana University, Summer 2005
Funding for Advanced Study of the Akan (Twi) language.

University Graduate Fellowship UW-Madison Fall 2004-Spring 2005
University Fellowship for matriculation towards a degree in African Languages and Literature.

Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship UW-Madison, Fall 2002-Spring 2004
Title VI funding for study of the Yoruba language.

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Ohio University, Summer 2004
Funding for Study of Intermediate Wolof and Elementary KiKongo.

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Ibadan, Nigeria, Summer 2003
Title VI funding for Advanced Study of the Yoruba language.

National African Language Resource Center Summer Institute Fellow UW-Madison, Summer 2003
Pedagogy and Curriculum Development training for African language instructors.

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Michigan State University, Summer 2002
Funding for Study of Intermediate Wolof and Elementary Yoruba.

Full Academic Scholarship Morehouse College, Fall 1997-Spring 2002
Academic Scholarship for matriculation towards a degree in African American Studies.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Akan (Near Native Speaker Proficiency) (10 years, University of Ghana at Legon 2000-2001, SCALI 2005, Indiana University)

Yoruba (Near Native Speaker Proficiency) (6 years, Michigan State University SCALI 2002, Ibadan, Nigeria 2003, UW-Madison 2002-2005)

Wolof (Advanced Mid) (5 years, Ohio University SCALI 2004)

KiKongo (Intermediate Low) (3 1/2 year, Ohio University SCALI 2004)

KiSwahili (Intermediate Low) (1 Semester, Morehouse College 1999)

Portuguese (Novice High) Novice High conversational Plus ~200+ Capoeira Songs sung in Portuguese

REFEREES

Dr. Mario Beatty
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