

# Intonation in advice giving in Kenyan English and Kiswahili



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## BACKGROUND

Kenyans are highly multilingual - mother tongue, **Kenyan English** and **Kenyan Kiswahili** (co-official languages and *linguae francae*)  
Also Sheng (an urban mixed variety)

Widespread **code-switching** [1] [2] [3]

### Kenyan English Prosody

- Little durational reduction of unstressed syllables [4]
- Influence from the mother tongue in both reading and speech [5]

### Kenyan Kiswahili Prosody

- Change in syntactic structure affects intonation [6]

## Global F0 characteristics in advising

Form of advice	K. English	K. Kiswahili	Code-switching
<b>Imperatives</b>	Downstepping trend	Alternating rise and falls	Alternating rise and falls
<b>Declaratives</b>	Downstepping trend	Alternating rise and falls	Alternating rise and falls with a greater pitch range
<b>Conditionals</b>	Downstepping trend	Alternating rise and falls	Alternating rise and falls with a greater pitch range

Kenyan multilinguals have a **shared repertoire of intonational patterns** for **English** and **Kiswahili**  
Distribution of patterns depends on syntactic realisations of advice and for each language

## METHOD

Ca. 40 advice-giving utterances  
Radio phone-in programme: *The Breakfast Show*  
**Sensitive topics:** relationships, loyalty, money, etc.  
Languages: **K. English**, **K. Kiswahili**  
Analysis of F0 contours

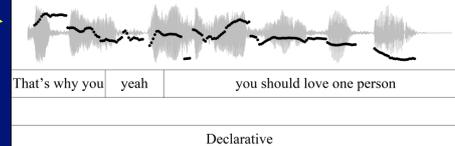
## RESEARCH QUESTION

How is the prosody of advice realised in radio phone-ins in **K. English** and **K. Kiswahili**?

Is each prosodic system distinct?  
What happens in code switching?

Downstepping →

### Intonation in Kenyan English



Downstepping ↘

Alternating rises and falls ↘

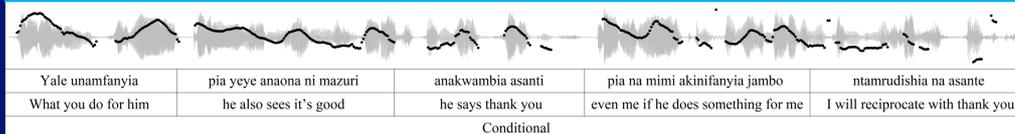
Carry over of Kiswahili pattern rises and falls ↘

### Code-switching instances



Alternating rises and falls →

### Intonation in Kiswahili



## CONCLUSION

In radio phone-ins, **Kiswahili** has more rises and falls  
**K. English** has more downstepping patterns  
After a **code switch** rises and falls are also used in **K. English**

The rising-falling patterns for **Kiswahili** and **K. English** constitutes one aspect of **shared intonational space** in which intonation contours are associated with a specific pragmatic meaning

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