

**MSHIKAMANO NA MUWALA KATIKA DISKOSI ZA WANAWINGI-LUGHA:
HALI KATIKA VYUO VIKUU NCHINI KENYA**

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**Tasnifu hii Imewasilishwa kwa Kitengo cha Uzamili na Uzamifu ili Kuyatosheleza Baadhi
ya Mahitaji ya Shahada ya Uzamifu katika Kiswahili ya Chuo Kikuu cha Laikipia**

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ABSTRACT

Cohesion and coherence are linguistic elements which are relevant in discourse unity and in the interpretation of meaning. However, some researchers have labelled codeswitched conversations as disjointed and incoherent pieces, which do not follow rules of grammar. As a result of their claims, it was not clear whether multilinguals use some strategies to bring about cohesion and coherence in their codeswitched discourses. Founded on this background, this research sought: to study the cohesion and coherence strategies used by multilinguals in generating unified codeswitched utterances, to establish the cohesion and coherence rules which govern generation of codeswitched discourse and to analyze the linguistic and non-linguistic features which determine coherence in multilingual discourses. This study was guided by two theories: Tanskanen's Cohesion theory which is based on repetition and collocation was applied in the study of cohesion strategies. Taboada and Mann's Rhetoric Structure Theory which relies on the rhetorical relations existing between text spans as coherence strategies was used in the study of multilingual discourse coherence. Data was collected from a sample of two universities, namely: Moi University and University of Kabianga. One campus was purposively selected from each of these two universities and these were Kericho Campus of Moi University and the Main Campus of University of Kabianga. The two campuses were purposively sampled out because most of the students, from Bomet and Kericho counties where most of the native speakers of Kipsigis live, had joined them through the Privately Sponsored Students Programme, thus it was easier to access the target population. Snow balling technique was applied in choosing nine discourses from university students and six from university staff in each of the sampled university campuses. This means that, from the two campuses, a total of thirty discourses were studied. Data analysis was guided by the two research theories as per the research objectives. This study found that multilinguals apply distinct strategies in building discourse coherence and cohesion in their codeswitched conversations. The findings of this study are valueable to those who are interested in understanding coherence, cohesion and structural analysis of discourse. The study findings of this research have also been used as the basis for advancing a new multifaceted theory which is relevant in the description of cohesion, coherence and other linguistic elements.