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***Omuse* burial ritual: An inventory of the Tachoni linguistic practices for the dead**



Artistic
representation of
participants in
Omuse ceremony.

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This presentation unveils the style and speech events used during the *Omuse* burial ritual of the Tachoni people who live in Western Kenya. The *Omuse* burial ritual applies only to the male elderly influential Tachoni people who are deceased; specifically, those who had planted the *omutoto* 'fig tree' in their lifetime. It involves utterances addressed to the Tachoni ancestors, the deceased, the bereaved, the relatives, the friends, and the community. The presentation will explore these utterances as speech events using Hymes (1968) and Dimmendaal (in press) frameworks. Hymes's (1968) framework offers a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to the study of language and communication as actions that transpire in naturally occurring, everyday situations and interactions. On the other hand, Dimmendaal (in press) provides more modern interdisciplinary approaches (considering "conversational analysis" theories, (im)politeness theories, as well as updated versions of the "ethnography of speaking"). The frameworks are used to establish how language is used by the Tachoni to express culture, how cultural practices are transported through language, and how one of the many practices of a community in different cultural contexts (such as burial rites) are language practices.

David Barasa is a Senior Lecturer and Coordinator for Research and Publications at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. He is currently based at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz on Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Experienced Research fellowship. His research is on the fields of Linguistics and Communication Studies, with special reference to language description, ethnolinguistics, language policy analysis, language contact and variation, and multilingualism.

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de