Kamusi Project
Global Online Living Dictionary

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Language & Migration
Heirlooms from the Motherlands

Workshop on Highly-Skilled Migration, Diasporas and Digital Technologies
Cooperation and Development Center – CODEV
Lausanne, 10 November 2016
Heirlooms from the Motherlands

1. Language and Migrants
2. Language and Kamusi
3. Kamusi and Migrants
Language and Migrants

1. Migration = leaving behind languages and loved ones
2. Migration = adopting new languages
3. Highly skilled migrants = high language skills
4. Highly skilled migrants = high technology skills and access
5. ICT (mobile phones, Facebook, Skype) = leaving while staying
6. Staying connected = staying concerned
Language and Kamusi

1. Kamusi = connecting languages and language technologies
2. Kamusi = providing information about languages
3. Kamusi = producing information about languages

Active features: http://kamusigold.org
Language and Kamusi

1. Kamusi = connecting languages and language technologies
2. Kamusi = providing knowledge about languages
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Active features: http://kamusigold.org
Kamusi and Migrants

- Language loss ≠ identified migration issue
- Language loss ≠ high personal priority for migrants
- Language loss ≠ personally actionable
- Language resources and technology ≠ “little languages”

- Kamusi = identifies the issue
  = provides ready solutions
  = values “exotic” languages

Active features: http://kamusigold.org
Kamusi and Migrants

1. Social media = reach dispersed communities
2. Word games = fun in untapped languages
3. Fidget widget = OCD with a purpose
4. Motivations = stay connected
   = give something back
   = linguistic equity
   = language passion
   = pass culture to children

Active features: http://kamusigold.org
Heirlooms from the Motherlands

1. Language and Migrants: Does ubiquitous ICT foretell an era when migration ≠ language loss?
2. Language and Kamusi: Can the project sustain languages that funders do not value?
3. Kamusi and Migrants: Will migrants with linguistic skills find and retain interest in building knowledge resources for their languages?

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