A SCHOLARISTIC ANALYSIS OF NONVERBAL CUES AMONG THE
ABASAMIA COMMUNITY OF BUSIA COUNTY

BY

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C50/CE/11452/2007

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS) OF KENYATTA
UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION

This proposal is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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We confirm that the work presented in this proposal was carried out by the candidate and has been submitted for examination with our approval as university supervisors.

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ABSTRACT

This proposal seeks to establish the verbal cues used to complement nonverbal cues among the Abasamia community of Busia County. The central factor in communications is intelligibility that must exist between the parties. The concept of communication involves not only the verbal message; that is the person's words; but the non-verbal message as well. Having intermingled with various ethnic communities, Abasamia picked up nonverbal signs of human communication which they have tried to live with over the centuries. However, speech too contains nonverbal elements known as paralinguistic features experienced among the Abasamia community. How does the Abasamia use verbal communication to demystify the nonverbal signals? The specific intentions of this study are to find out the linguistic cues used to complement nonverbal signals among the Abasamia community; and the factors motivating the choice of both verbal and nonverbal cues among the Abasamia community. The research study contributes significantly in enriching existing theories on interaction of verbal and nonverbal communication with the importance of linguistic cues development being stressed. The cost and time constraints of undertaking the study will affect the comprehensive study. The study reviews literature on the concept of signage, semiotics and multimodal analysis; complementing nonverbal communication; and theoretical anchorage. Cross sectional descriptive design will be adopted in this study. The interviewees will be selected on basis of availability. A semi-structured questionnaire will be administered by the researcher. The data collected will be analyzed and interpreted as per the research questions and objectives. Document analysis will be used to analyze the interview schedules. The study findings will be presented in prose form.