

An Image-schematic Approach to the Conceptualization of Laptops by Standard One Learners in Nyeri County, Kenya.

By

Moses Gatambuki Gathigia¹ & Martin C. Njoroge²

Abstract

The development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the realm of education has given pedagogy a timely boost in teaching and learning. Consequently, the Kenyan government has prioritized ICT as an engine to propel the country to political and socio-economic growth in order to meet the dictates of the country's Vision 2030. The laptop project, which was a Jubilee party campaign promise in 2013 presidential elections, intends to provide an avenue for Kenyan primary school pupils to computer literacy in an increasingly globalised world. It is against this backdrop that this research set forth to examine the image schematic patterns conceptualized by Kenyan primary school pupils on the laptop initiative. Using a qualitative methodological approach, data were collected and analyzed from interviews administered to 30 primary school children from Nyeri County, Kenya, purposively sampled. In the analysis of findings, the study adopted the basic tenets of the Image Schema Theory (IST) and provided graphic representations of the image schematic patterns that emerge from the conceptualizations of laptops. The study noted that the Kenyan primary school pupils conceptualize laptops as the CONTAINER, FORCE and OBJECT basic image-schemas. These basic image schemas also provide guidelines for the orderly activation of subsidiary schemas. Second, the study noted that not all subsidiary image schemas of the CONTAINER, FORCE and OBJECT image schemas are instantiated. The study recommends the use of IST as a cognitive model in the conceptualization of abstract phenomena.

Key words: ICT, Laptops, Image Schemas, Subsidiary, Conceptualization, Nyeri County

Theme: Quality Education for Technological Innovation and Development

Subtheme: Curriculum change and trends for technological development

¹ Department of Humanities & Languages, Karatina University, P. O. Box 1957-10101, Karatina, Kenya. Tel: +254721993915, Email: mgatambuki@yahoo.com

² Department of English & Linguistics, Kenyatta University, P.O Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254722319499, Email: njoroge.martin@ku.ac.ke