

Abstract

The linguistic landscape of urban environments is marked by the dynamic evolution of linguistic codes, shaped by intricate interactions between language, culture, and context. Through their distinct linguistic code, Mbogi Genje, a populous music group has managed to not only convey their artistic expressions but also establish a unique cultural identity within an urban context in Kenya. While scholars have examined the language used by Mbogi Genje, the analysis of morphological changes in verbs that have led to the mutation of their linguistic code remains unexplored. The current study aimed at shedding light on the morphological patterns utilized in the formation of verbs. The study was guided by the theory of Language Contact and Creole Formation, pioneered by Derek Bickerton in 1970s. The researcher utilized a descriptive research design, incorporating qualitative data collection and analysis methods. These methods encompass interviews, content analysis, and focus group discussions. The findings indicated that the linguistic code of Mbogi Genje contains unique verbs that reflect urban street culture, solidarity, and defiance. These verbs are pivotal in expressing attitudes of resilience, aggression, and power, encapsulating the group's urban identity and survival strategies. The formation of these verbs in Mbogi Genje's linguistic code follows processes like inflection, derivation, neologisms, and borrowing. The verbs in Mbogi Genje have undergone significant linguistic changes through blending and adaptation. This has resulted in the mutation of the old Sheng code, creating new verb forms. The study concludes that the linguistic code of Mbogi Genje has evolved from old Sheng, Swahili, and English through blending and adaptation, resulting in new, coded verbs that are uniquely understood within their community, reflecting their distinct urban identity.