Nothing is What it Looks Like in Central Africa

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Map of Bukavu area
# Linguistic diversity of Bukavu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic ('tribal') languages</th>
<th>Ethnically neutral lgs.</th>
<th>Secret languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rega</td>
<td>Swahili</td>
<td>Kinyume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shi</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Kibalele</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nande</td>
<td>Indoubil</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Havu</td>
<td>Lingala</td>
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<tr>
<td>etc.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Cognitive niches
Communicativity Index

Communicativity Index (communicative value of each language)

\[ CI_{am} = \left( P_{am} \right)^2 \]

What is the probability that two people selected at random from a population \( m \) will be able to converse with one another in language \( a \). [where P stands for ‘Proportion’]

1 = everyone speaks \( a \)  
0 = nobody speaks \( a \)

Swahili (1), French (0.31), Lingala (0.41), Indoubil (0.44), Kibalele (0.00..), ethnic lgs [blanket term] (0.06)
References


