

Assessing the Readability of Non-English-Language Consent Forms: The Case of Kiswahili for Research Conducted in Kenya

Table 1.
Mean Difference, T-Test, and P-Values of Cloze Test Scores between English Informed Consent Forms and Their Kiswahili Translations

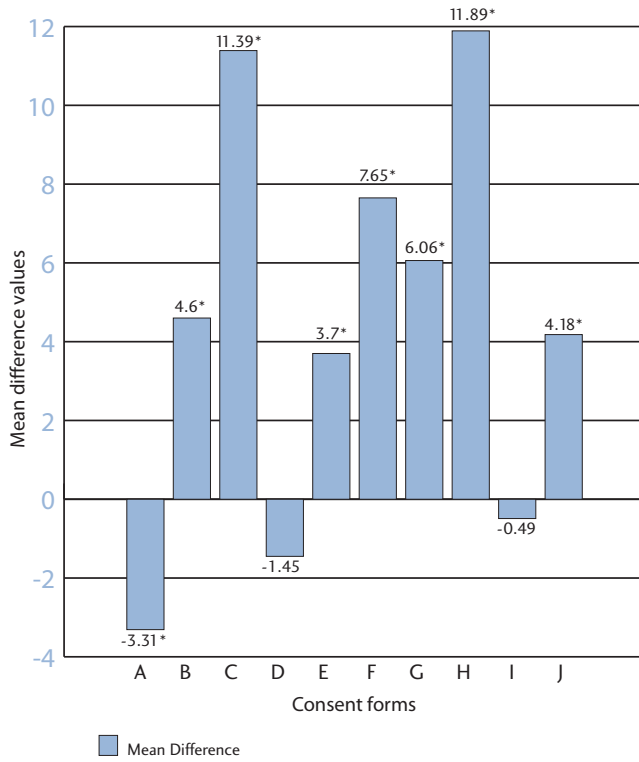
Consent form	Mean difference	95% Confidence interval	Average percent correct on English form	Average percent correct on Kiswahili form	T-test	P-value
A	-3.31	-6.25 to -0.37	47.37	50.68	-2.31	0.0285
B	4.6	1.55 – 7.63	43.94	39.36	3.09	0.0044
C	11.39	8.65 – 14.13	53.71	42.32	8.50	0.0000
D	-1.45	-3.84 to 0.95	43.76	45.2	-1.23	0.23 (NS)*
E	3.7	1.08 to 6.33	52.12	48.42	2.88	0.0073
F	7.65	4.43-10.86	50.23	42.59	4.86	0.0000
G	6.06	2.44 to 9.67	50.21	44.16	3.42	0.0019
H	11.89	9.34 to 14.44	54.13	42.24	9.53	0.0000
I	-0.49	-2.88 to 1.91	50.39	50.88	-0.42	0.68 (NS)
J	4.18	1.74 to 6.62	43.06	38.88	3.51	0.0015

*NS = not statistically significant.

Table 2.
Number and Percent Distribution Across Comprehension Categories by Form and Language

Form/ Language	Incomprehensible (<38%)		Comprehensible (38%–66%)		Very easy to comprehend (>66%)	
	Number	Percentage (n = 30)	Number	Percentage (n = 30)	Number	Percentage (n = 30)
A						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
B						
English	3	10%	27	90%	0	0%
Kiswahili	11	35%	19	65%	0	0%
C						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	5	15%	25	85%	0	0%
D						
English	2	7%	28	93%	0	0%
Kiswahili	1	3%	29	97%	0	0%
E						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	1	3%	29	97%	0	0%
F						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	6	20%	24	80%	0	0%
G						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	5	15%	25	85%	0	0%
H						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
I						
English	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
Kiswahili	0	0%	30	100%	0	0%
J						
English	3	10%	27	90%	0	0%
Kiswahili	12	40%	18	60%	0	0%

Figure 1.
Mean Differences between Average Readability Scores on English and Kiswahili Consent Forms



* Statistically significant (corresponding p-value < 0.05). Note: Statistically significant differences greater than zero suggest the English form had a higher average readability score using the cloze procedure than the Kiswahili form. Statistically significant differences less than zero suggest the English form had lower average readability scores as compared to the Kiswahili form.

Figure 2.
Percentage of Participants Who Scored below 38%
(Demonstrating Inadequate Comprehension) Using the Cloze Procedure

