

# Manao ahoana

Hello

Vololona Razafimbelo

Malagasy Consultant

# On the other side of the linguist fence

## The Consultant World

**What does it look like to be the language Consultant, its challenges and expectations? The importance of the role in the linguist research. Any impact of its input? Is there such thing as good consultant or not so good? Criteria if the linguist had the opportunity to choose.**

**Lessons learned.** *Why you like doing it, or what you wish you would have done better or done less of. What a linguist should keep in mind when working with the language consultant.*

# The role of the Consultant

- Manga ny lanitra
- Ny lanitra **dia** manga
- Ny lanitra no manga

*The sky is blue*

*YES – Mety*

*NO -- Tsy mety*

# WHY vs WHAT

- Nanadino nanidy varavarana Rakoto  
*Rakoto forgot to close the door*
- Nanadino foana nanidy varavarana Rakoto
- Nanadino nanidy foana varavarana Rakoto
- Nanadino nanidy varavarana foana Rakoto
- Nanadino nanidy varavarana Rakoto foana  
*Rakoto always forgot to close the door*  
*(2 of the sentences are NO- Tsy mety)*

# How to define the Consultant's role

- Say **YES** or **NO** to provided data, which would help the linguist to validate his/her data, with or without necessarily understanding the **WHY** of the study.

# Strength of the Consultant over the Linguist

- The Consultant owns the data - The data are in his head
- Solomaso – *glasses ( solo – maso : replacement of the eye)*
- Ranomainty – *ink (rano- mainty : water- black)*
- Ranomaso – *tear (rano – maso : water of the eye)*
- Masoandro – *sun (maso- andro: eye of the day)*
- Tranonkala – *spider web (trano- hala: house of the spider)*

# Challenges - What if you do not know?

- Tapahina amin'ny antsy ny hena
- Tapahina aminy antsy ny hena
- Tapahina amina antsy ny hena
- Tapahina amin'na antsy ny hena
- Tapahina antsy ny hena

*The meat is cut with a knife*

*( 3 of these sentences are No-Tsy mety)*

*Amina or amin na?*

# Challenges - Spoken vs Written

- Fantatro vs Fantako

*I know*

- Aminy and Amina

*With*

- Vololona Razafimbelo vs Vulul Razafimbel



# Challenges - Context

- Tafavohan'i Rasoana ny varavarana
  - Voavohan'i Rasoana ny varavarana
- Rasoana was able to open the door*

## *Challenges - Grammatically correct but not culturally suited*

- *Mankahala jerena ny zaza*

*The child hates to be watched*

- Fotsy varavarana Raso

Vizana Raso

- \*Fotsy varavarana Raso omaly

Vizana Raso omaly (yesterday)

*Raso doesn't like to stay home*

*Raso is tired*

# 3 kind of consultants

- Tia mamaky boky Rakoto
- Tia vakian-dRakoto ny boky

*Rakoto loves to read*

# Is there a such thing as a good consultant and a not so good?

- understand the purpose of the study and not teach the language. The challenge is to master that difference and to restrain yourself from it, is the hard part.
- honesty: The consultant should not be afraid to say I don't know... it is sometimes an humbling experience.
- open to what the linguist wants to know, more than to impart what he knows. It is definitely not necessarily sharing knowledge. It is more to get into the linguist shoes and try to see where he wants to go.
- Teacher vs Consultant : teaching is to impart the knowledge you acquired vs consulting is more to impart knowledge you already own.

# Misaotra

Thank you

# My questions to you, linguist!

- What do you expect from us consultants?
- Have you ever been disappointed?

*I want to hear from you as well!*