



## **Handling of Acronyms in Kiswahili Lexicography**

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The use of acronyms in oral and written Kiswahili communication is becoming common. Acronyms are used in formal and casual communication as they save time and space (cf. Strong, 1996:708; Massamba, 2000: 224; and Gichuru, 2010:39); they facilitate an aspect of language economy and simplify communication among people (Mwansoko, 2008: 172). Although they are greatly used in Kiswahili, the formation of acronyms as a morphological process for word formation has not been comprehensively studied in lexicography (cf. Vuzo, 1995:112 and Habwe, 1995: 22). Few studies on Kiswahili acronyms are neither detailed nor systematic. This indicates that the lexicographic treatment of acronyms has attracted little attention of scholars. Thus, this paper intends to examine acronyms with the main focus on their handling in Kiswahili lexicography with a view to finding out whether or not acronyms have lexicographic status of being entries in Kiswahili dictionaries.

This paper may be presented in either English or Kiswahili.