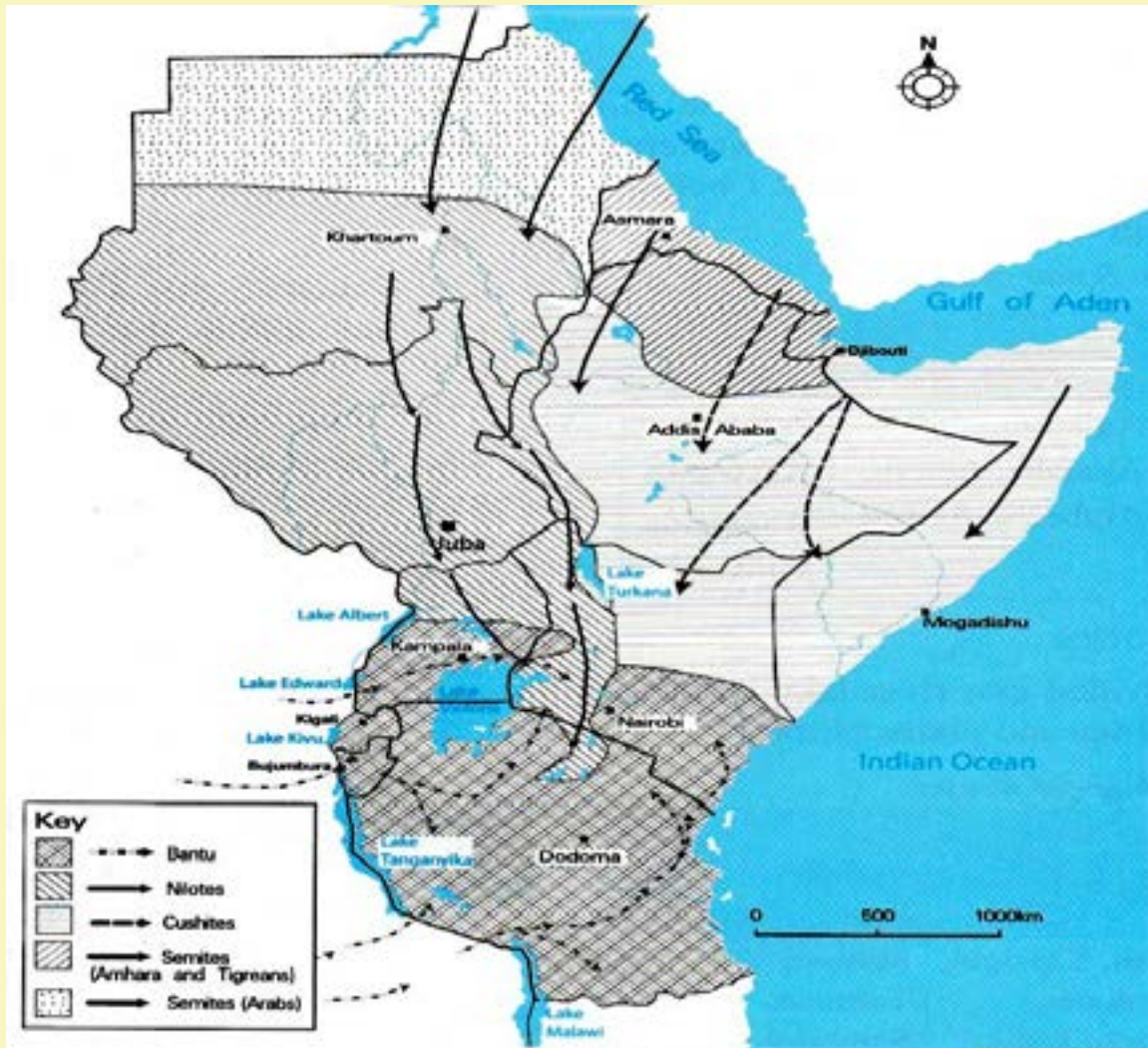


## Session 2

### Origin, migration and settlement of the main language groups in Eastern Africa.

You identified the main language groups in Eastern Africa in the previous session. You should now describe the origin, migration and settlement of the main language groups in Eastern Africa.



Language Group	Origin	Migration	Settlements
<b>Bantu</b>	West-Central Africa (Cameroon-Nigeria border region)	Migrated east and south in waves around 1000 BCE – 1500 CE	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique

<b>Nilotes</b>	Nile Valley (South Sudan)	Migrated southwards around 1000 BCE – 1800 CE	Western Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania
<b>Cushites</b>	Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia)	Migrated southwards around 2000 BCE	Northern Kenya, Southern Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti
<b>Semites</b>	Middle East (Arabian Peninsula)	Migrated to the Horn of Africa around 1000 BCE	Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia

## 1. Bantu Language Group

### Origin:

The Bantu languages are part of the larger Niger-Congo language family. They are believed to have originated in West/Central Africa, particularly in the region around present-day Nigeria and Cameroon.

### Migration:

- The Bantu expansion began around 1000 BCE and continued for several centuries. This migration was driven by a combination of factors, including population growth, agricultural development, and the search for new land.
- Bantu-speaking peoples moved eastward and southward, spreading through the Great Lakes region and into Southern Africa.

### Settlement:

- In Eastern Africa, Bantu speakers settled in areas that are now Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- They established agricultural communities, cultivating crops such as bananas, millet, and cassava, and developed ironworking skills.
- Major Bantu groups in Eastern Africa include the Kikuyu, Luhya, and Kamba in Kenya, and the Sukuma and Nyamwezi in Tanzania.

## 2. Nilotic Language Group

### Origin:

The Nilotic languages are part of the Nilo-Saharan language family. They are believed to have originated in the Nile Valley or the surrounding regions.

### Migration:

- The Nilotic peoples, including groups such as the Dinka, Nuer, and Luo, are thought to have migrated southward from the Nile Valley into South Sudan and further into Kenya and Tanzania around 2000 BCE.
- This migration was influenced by environmental changes, such as the desiccation of the Sahara and the search for fertile land and water sources.

### Settlement:

- Nilotic speakers primarily inhabit regions in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. They are often associated with pastoralism and fishing, adapting to the ecological conditions of the Nile Basin and surrounding areas.
- The Luo, for example, settled around Lake Victoria, while the Dinka and Nuer are primarily found in South Sudan's wetlands and savannas.

## 3. Cushitic Language Group

### Origin:

Cushitic languages are part of the Afro-Asiatic language family. They are believed to have originated in the Horn of Africa or the southern Arabian Peninsula.

### Migration:

- The Cushitic-speaking peoples, including the Oromo, Somali, and Afar, are thought to have migrated from the Arabian Peninsula into the Horn of Africa around 4000-2000 BCE.
- This migration was likely influenced by climatic changes and the search for grazing land.

### Settlement:

- Cushitic speakers primarily inhabit the Horn of Africa, including present-day Ethiopia, Somalia, and parts of Kenya and Djibouti.

- They are known for their pastoralist lifestyles, with many groups relying on live-stock herding, while others engage in agriculture.

#### **4. Semitic Language Group**

##### **Origin:**

The Semitic languages are also part of the Afro-Asiatic family. They are believed to have originated in the Middle East, with roots tracing back to ancient civilizations in the region.

##### **Migration:**

- The spread of Semitic languages into Eastern Africa was significantly influenced by trade, migration, and the spread of Islam from the 7th century onwards.
- Arabic, a major Semitic language, was introduced through trade and cultural exchange, particularly along the East African coast.

##### **Settlement:**

- Semitic-speaking communities, particularly those speaking Arabic, settled in coastal areas of Eastern Africa, including parts of Somalia, Kenya, and Tanzania.
- The Amhara and Tigray people in Ethiopia speak Semitic languages (Amharic and Tigrinya) and have historical roots in the region, with their presence dating back to ancient times.