

# Lesson 51:

## The Connective -A of Association

### Connective -A [kivumishi -A unganifu]

The English possessive case "'s", which is often equivalent to "of" when it marks possession, is translated into Kiswahili by a particle whose root is **-A**. The connective particle **-A** agrees in class with the noun of the thing (or person) possessed.

- A). Connective -A
- B). Connective -A and Noun Classes
- C). Word Order
- D). Possessive Pronouns

### A). Connective -A

One way of expressing a relationship between two things is using the **-A** of association. In the greeting *habari za leo* the associative *za* "of" is used.

- *Habari za leo?* [How is today's news?/How is today?]

The noun "*habari*" can be associated with all kinds of nouns, and so the *habari* greeting is used to inquire about anything:

- *Habari za jana?* [How was yesterday's news?/How was yesterday?]
- *Habari za asubuhi?* [How is the morning news?/How is your morning?]
- *Habari za kazi?* [How is work's news?/How is work?]

One associative:

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Habari za masomo?     | [How are your studies?] |
| Habari za baba?       | [How is your father?]   |
| Habari za Tanzania?   | [How is Tanzania?]      |
| Habari za Kiswahili?  | [How is Kiswahili?]     |
| Habari za California? | [How is California?]    |
| jimbo la Kansas       | [the state of Kansas]   |
| mji wa Lawrence       | [the city of Lawrence]  |

chuo kikuu cha Kansas  
nchi ya Amerika

[The University of Kansas]  
[the country of America]

Two associatives:

Habari za masomo ya historia? [How are your history studies?]

Habari za mwanafunzi wa  
Kiswahili? [How is the Kiswahili student?]

Habari za mwalimu wa Kiswahili? [How is the Kiswahili teacher?]

## B). Connective -A and Noun Classes

| NGELI | CONNECTIVE -A | SENTENCE                     | TRANSLATION       |
|-------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| M     | <b>wa</b>     | mwana <b>wa</b> baba         | Father's child    |
| WA    | <b>wa</b>     | wana <b>wa</b> baba          | Father's children |
| KI    | <b>cha</b>    | kiti <b>cha</b> baba         | Father's chair    |
| VI    | <b>vya</b>    | viti <b>vya</b> baba         | Father's chairs   |
| M     | <b>wa</b>     | mti <b>wa</b> baba           | Father's tree     |
| MI    | <b>ya</b>     | miti <b>ya</b> baba          | Father's trees    |
| JI    | <b>la</b>     | gari <b>la</b> baba          | Father's car      |
| MA    | <b>ya</b>     | magari <b>ya</b> baba        | Father's cars     |
| N     | <b>ya</b>     | nyumba <b>ya</b> baba        | Father's house    |
| N     | <b>za</b>     | nyumba <b>za</b> baba        | Father's houses   |
| U     | <b>wa</b>     | ubao <b>wa</b> baba          | Father's board    |
| ZI    | <b>za</b>     | mbao <b>za</b> baba          | Father's boards   |
| U     | <b>wa</b>     | ugali <b>wa</b> baba         | Father's cornmeal |
| U     | <b>wa</b>     | ugali <b>wa</b> baba         | Father's cornmeal |
| KU    | <b>kwa</b>    | kulala <b>kwa</b> baba       | Father's sleep    |
| KU    | <b>kwa</b>    | kulala <b>kwa</b> baba       | Father's sleep    |
| PA    | <b>pa</b>     | pahali/mahali <b>pa</b> baba | Father's place    |
| PA    | <b>pa</b>     | pahali/mahali <b>pa</b> baba | Father's place    |
| MU    | <b>mwa</b>    | nyumbani <b>mwa</b> baba     | Father's house    |
| MU    | <b>mwa</b>    | nyumbani <b>mwa</b> baba     | Father's house    |

## C). Word Order

When ownership or possession is conveyed by the word "of" in an English sentence, the word order is exactly the same in Kiswahili. The only difference is that an adjective must follow the noun it qualifies.

Mifano:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a). mtoto mdogo wa mama           | [small child of the mother /<br><i>mother's small child</i> ]           |
| b). mikono mikubwa ya mtoto mdogo | [large hands of the small child /<br><i>small child's large hands</i> ] |
| c). viatu vichafu vya watoto      | [dirty shoes of the children /<br><i>children's dirty shoes</i> ]       |
| d). gari jipya la baba            | [new car of the father /<br><i>father's new car</i> ]                   |

## D). Possessive Pronouns

Remember also that the same prefix is used for all possessive pronouns:

|                              | <b>Umoja</b> (singular)            | <b>Wingi</b> (plural)                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Person</b> | darasa <b>langu</b> [my class]     | darasa <b>letu</b> [our class]        |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Person</b> | darasa <b>lako</b> [your class]    | darasa <b>lenu</b> [your (pl.) class] |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Person</b> | darasa <b>lake</b> [his/her class] | darasa <b>lao</b> [their class]       |

## Sentence Formation

Mifano:

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> Mbwa <b>wa</b> mjomba ni huyu.     | [Uncle's dog is this one.]         |
| Mbwa <b>wa</b> wajomba ni hawa.              | [Uncle's dogs are these ones.]     |
| <b>2.</b> Kiko <b>cha</b> babu kimeanguka.   | [Grandfather's pipe has fallen.]   |
| Viko <b>vya</b> babu vimeanguka.             | [Grandfather's pipes have fallen.] |
| <b>3.</b> Maji <b>ya</b> mto ni machafu.     | [The river's water is dirty.]      |
| Maji <b>ya</b> mito ni machafu.              | [The rivers' water is dirty.]      |
| <b>4.</b> Shambani <b>mwa</b> mzee ni mzuri. | [The elder's land is good.]        |
| Shambani <b>mwa</b> wazee ni mzuri.          | [The elders' land is good.]        |

**MIFANO ZAIDI:**

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>5.</b> mtoto <b>wa</b> mwalimu     | [teacher's child]       |
| watoto <b>wa</b> walimu               | [teachers' children]    |
| <b>6.</b> mkono <b>wa</b> kaka        | [brother's arm]         |
| mikono <b>ya</b> kaka                 | [brother's arms]        |
| <b>7.</b> jina <b>la</b> mgeni        | [guest's name]          |
| majina <b>ya</b> wageni               | [guest's names]         |
| <b>8.</b> kitabu <b>cha</b> Kiswahili | [Kiswahili book]        |
| vitabu <b>vya</b> Kiswahili           | [Kiswahili books]       |
| <b>9.</b> kalamu <b>ya</b> John       | [John's pen]            |
| kalamu <b>za</b> John                 | [John's pens]           |
| <b>10.</b> ufunguo <b>wa</b> gari     | [car key]               |
| funguo <b>za</b> gari                 | [car keys]              |
| <b>11.</b> mfuko <b>wa</b> mwalimu    | [teacher's bookbag]     |
| mifuko <b>ya</b> mwalimu              | [teacher's bookbags]    |
| <b>12.</b> nyumba <b>ya</b> mwalimu   | [teacher's house]       |
| nyumba <b>za</b> mwalimu              | [teacher's houses]      |
| <b>13.</b> televisheni <b>ya</b> kaka | [brother's television]  |
| televisheni <b>za</b> kaka            | [brother's televisions] |
| <b>14.</b> gari <b>la</b> Mike        | [Mike's car]            |
| magari <b>ya</b> Mike                 | [Mike's cars]           |
| <b>15.</b> darasa <b>la</b> Kiswahili | [Kiswahili class]       |
| madarasa <b>ya</b> Kiswahili          | [Kiswahili classes]     |