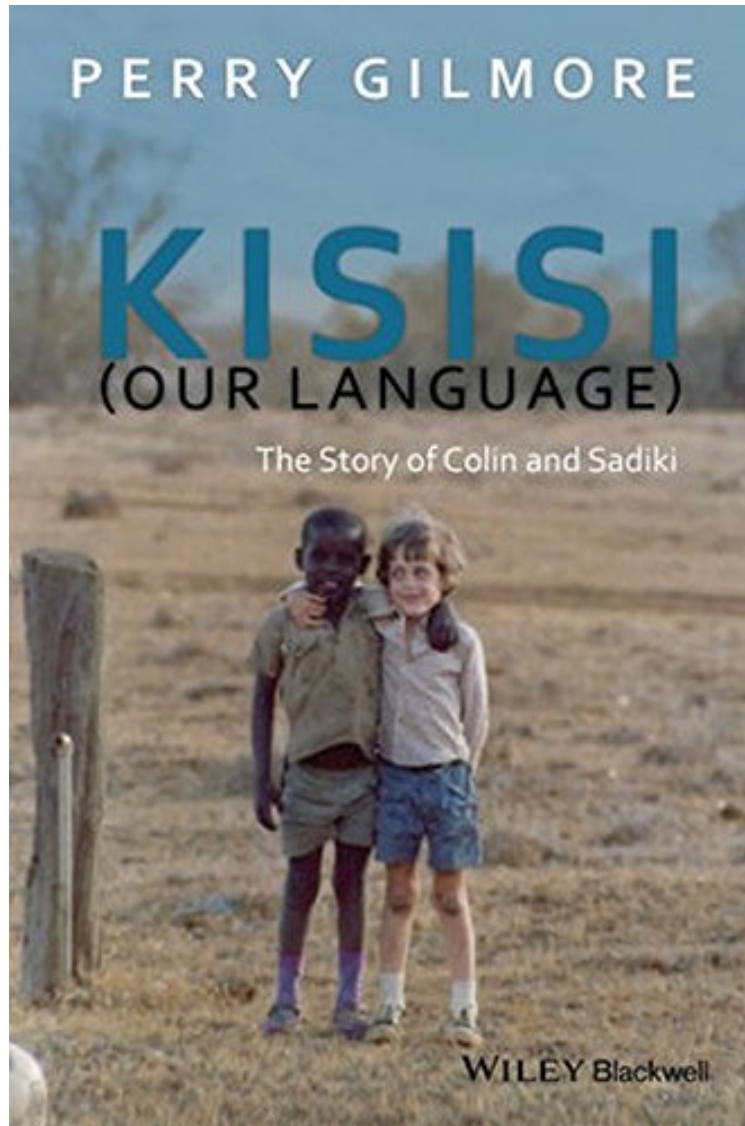


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## **Kisisi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki (New Directions in Ethnography)**

*Perry Gilmore*

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**Perry Gilmore : Kisisi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki (New Directions in Ethnography)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kisisi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki (New Directions in Ethnography):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A rare, powerful, multicultural friendship for all ages.By S.R.ShayonThis is a must-read for anybody interested in the magic of language, communication and companionship.

The author has the rare ability to marry professional context with personal memoir. I had the privilege of visiting the Gilmore's in Kenya - a life-changing experience in every way. All that is conveyed in this book is representative of that unique journey navigated by Colin and Sadiki - a journey that is ultimately universal. Thank you for bringing this into our consciousness - a true testament to Colin. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book about the language invented by two children to communicate with each other. By Tucson resident This is such a wonderful book, filled with details about the two children at the heart of the story, as well as profound insights into the language they created to converse with each other and the race relations at that time. There are also some very interesting photographs from the author's archives. The book captivates you from the opening paragraph. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written. Loved this book. By M. O. Fascinating study of an emergent language phenomenon. Beautifully written. Loved this book.

Part historic ethnography, part linguistic case study and part a mothers memoir, *Kisiki* tells the story of two boys (Colin and Sadiki) who, together invented their own language, and of the friendship they shared in postcolonial Kenya. Documents and examines the invention of a new language between two boys in postcolonial Kenya Offers a unique insight into child language development and use Presents a mixed genre narrative and multidisciplinary discussion that describes the childrens border-crossing friendship and their unique and innovative private language Beautifully written by one of the foremost scholars in child development, language acquisition and education, the book provides a seamless blending of the personal and the ethnographic The story of Colin and Sadiki raises profound questions and has direct implications for many fields of study including child language acquisition and socialization, education, anthropology, and the anthropology of childhood

*Kisiki* braids brilliant linguistic analysis with compelling critical ethnography. A gifted storyteller, Gilmore offers stunning scholarship contesting child language theories and reflecting on the dynamics of stark structural Kenyan colonialism. Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Critical Psychology, The Graduate Center, CUNY A story, lovingly told, of two boys exceptional friendship in a colonial setting. A remarkable example of linguistic practice as emergent in, and inseparable from, the relationships and activities it serves. Penelope Eckert, Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University A thoroughly unique and artfully crafted documentation of childrens creativity at work in inventing a new pidgin language and agency in resisting prevailing language ideologies. Marjorie Harness Goodwin, Professor of Anthropology, UCLA *Kisiki (Our Language)* is a unique and invaluable account of how two five-year-old boys--one Kenyan, one American--created a spontaneous pidgin. Incisive and poetic, its part linguistic analysis, part gripping story of culture contact, part deeply moving memorial to a life tragically cut short. This book will fascinate and move anyone interested in language, children, or human experience. Deborah Tannen, University Professor, Georgetown University From the Back Cover In 1975, on a remote hillside in postcolonial Up-Country Kenya, two five-year-old boys, one American and one Samburu, met and became inseparable friends for a period of 15 months. Colin and Sadiki's controversial postcolonial friendship was created through and marked by their invention of *Kisiki*, an original Swahili pidgin that was understood and shared by just the two of them. Moving gracefully between intimacy and colonial relations, this study documents a rare case of child language invention that demonstrates striking linguistic and sociolinguistic competencies of young children. As the boys negotiate diverse linguistic ecologies and cultural spaces, they display their abilities as highly effective language innovators. Though the study took place 40 years ago, these examples have significant implications for the study of global cultural encounters prevalent in our increasingly diverse world. Part historic ethnography, part linguistic case study, and part a mothers memoir, *Kisiki* is a human story of irrepressible expressive creativity as the boys quest for language equality creates a place for their friendship that transcends the existing language ideologies, marked colonial borders, and harsh inequities of economics, race and culture that engulfed all aspects of their daily lives. About the Author Perry Gilmore, a sociolinguist and educational anthropologist, is Professor of Language, Reading and Culture at the University of Arizona, USA. She is also Professor Emerita, and Affiliate Faculty at the Alaska Native Language Center, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Gilmore is the author of numerous ethnographic studies and co-editor of major ethnography collections including, *Children In and Out of School: Ethnography and Education* (1982) and *The Acquisition of Literacy: Ethnographic Perspectives* (1986). Gilmore is the past President of the Council on Anthropology and Education, a major section of the American Anthropology Association.