

Aspects of Deceptive Cognate Derived Loanwords in Kinyarwanda

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ABSTRACT

Loanwords derived from French and English deceptive cognates or false friends have caught the researcher's attention because of the complexity they present in the areas of language contact and language teaching and learning. Deceptive cognates very often constitute obstacles to the understanding of the meaning and the pronunciation of a word because they have tricky similarities. In Rwanda where most English learners have already acquired French as Target Language 2, the use of the right word in English (Target Language 3) is a serious threat to communication. The tendency is to consider the meaning, the pronunciation of an English word as that of a French word, especially when both words have the same spelling.

The complexity of deceptive cognates in a bilingual education system results from the position France and the United Kingdom have played in the history of the world since both countries have had two distinct educational systems.

Teaching and learning deceptive cognates in a bilingual education system is challenging, though, especially with non-native students currently learning French and English in Rwanda.

Therefore, researchers should carefully study these words that morphologically resemble in both languages but have a different meaning. Bilingual learners of French and English will face a big challenge in learning deceptive cognates until they possess a high command of the two languages, they will face serious obstacles in mastering deceptive cognates or false friends.

Keywords: loanwords language contact, loanwords, sociolinguistics, allocation, deceptive cognates, aspects.

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this article is to show how deceptive cognate derived loanwords from French and English which have been allocated to noun classes in Kinyarwanda present difficulties in daily communication, teaching, and learning. It focuses on some specific semantic aspects of loanwords when the speaker and the listener use them.

According to Pateau A.M. et al (1998:7), deceptive cognates are usually words of which the etymology is the same, but which have undergone, from a common form, generally from vulgar Latin, a different semantic development for each language. Thus, the Latin word *decipere*, 'deceive', gave deceive/deception in English and *décevoir/déception* in French. The primary meaning has been preserved in English, but weakened in French, in such a way that today these two words of which the form is similar or identical in both languages denote in each language strong differences of realities.

The coexistence of English and French alongside Kinyarwanda results in various sociolinguistic aspects. One of the sociolinguistic phenomena observed in this coexistence is the influx of French and English loanwords in Kinyarwanda. The latter include deceptive cognates of French and English, which render the use of the three languages more complex. There seems to be a linguistic clash here. The speaker faces a challenge while conversing in either English or French. The understanding of deceptive cognates, false friends or "look-alikes", would enable the speaker to express his/her ideas correctly and communicate more fluently. French and English pairs of words having a common origin, whereby the homonym suggests the synonym, are hardly mastered.

THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF DECEPTIVE COGNATES

To explain the reason why two words may deceive the speaker or the listener, the researchers consider two examples of deceptive cognates having their root in Latin. For example, the word 'library' and

librairie, English and French respectively, have lent two distinct words in Kinyarwanda: *libureri*, ‘bookshop’ versus *layibureri* (“library”), and *odiyanse* (“appointment”) vs *odiyense* (“public”, “hearing”).

The Latin word *librarium* lent two words to two recipient languages: French, Recipient Language 1 (RL1), and English, Recipient Language 2 (RL2). Kinyarwanda, Recipient Language 3 (RL3), has now two loanwords words from French and English, *libureri* and *layibureri*, two more new deceptive cognates added to the existing ones, ‘library’ and *librairie*.

The French word *librairie*, ‘bookshop’ and the English word ‘library’ for *bibliothèque* developed from the Latin word *librarium*, place to keep books (book case). Therefore the common denominator is the word ‘book’ (*liber*, *libra* in Latin).

When a Rwandan from a French speaking background uses the loanword *libureri*, he means “bookshop”, while a Rwandan from the English-speaking background uses the loanword *layibureri*, he means “a place where books are kept and may be read, and borrowed”. The problem increases when both speakers are talking to each other. There arises a misunderstanding, a quid pro quo.

The Latin word *audientia* lent two words to two recipient languages: French, Recipient Language 1 (RL1), and English, Recipient Language 2 (RL2). Kinyarwanda, Recipient Language 3 (RL3), received two words from French and English, *odiyanse* and *odiyense*, two more deceptive cognates added to the existing ones (audience and audience).

The loanword *odiyanse* comes from the French word *audience*, ‘appointment’. The spelling of *odiyanse* follows the French pronunciation of the word *audience* /odj *ās*/, while the loanword *odiyense* comes from the English word ‘audience (public, hearing) and follows the English pronunciation of the word audience /ɔ:drəns/.

The high rate of loanwords in a recipient language is a striking proof that a donor language has exercised a great influence on that language. For example, the presence of loanwords of Latin origin in Romance languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Rumanian), English, German, and other languages speaks of the strength of the language of the Roman Empire. This influence is still felt even today in the globally powerful English.

The researchers agree with Pooley (1963:23-24) who finds this influence more in the borrowing than in any other sociolinguistic phenomenon.

Words related to church and Christian life were borrowed from Latin and became a part of English; for example, *alms*, *altar*, *candle*, *disciple*, *mass*, *organ*, and *temple*. In addition to the strictly religious influence, contact with the Roman form of Christianity brought a general advancement of culture, which may be seen in the adoption of such words as *school*, *master*, *grammar*, *notary*; and *cap*, *chest*, *plant*, *circle*, and *place*. The advance in culture also developed Anglo-Saxon words to express the new ideas, such as *dyppan* (literally “to dip”) for *baptism*, and *fēond* (“fiend”) as a synonym for *devil*. Thus Christianity and Roman culture started that extensive borrowing of words from Latin sources which has persisted to our own day; for only yesterday we borrowed our new word *radio* from Latin *radius*.

The phenomenon of deceptive cognates is not limited to French and English only, but also to other languages. For instance if a Rwandan is learning Kirundi and he asks someone to help him cross the lake in a canoe, which means *guturira*, he may find himself burnt by the Burundian because the two words do not necessarily mean the same thing, though both verbs exist in both languages. In Kinyarwanda, *guturira* means to put someone in his boat and make him cross the lake or a river, while in Kirundi, it means, to burn somebody. The same situation exists with other interlacustrine languages (Great Lakes Region): There are false friends between Kinyarwanda-Kiganda, Kinyarwanda-Gihavu, Kinyarwanda-Kinande, etc.

There exist also false friends in English and Irish, e.g. *bean* for woman, *fear* for man, *bad* for boat.

Moreover, there may be mere formal coincidence or accidental homonyms, such as *pain* (bread) vs pain, *chat* (cat) vs chat, *pin* (pine) vs pin, *habit* (clothe) vs habit, etc.

However, languages of different origin may also have false friends. For instance, you may come across the word *pool* in Korean, meaning totally two different things. When it is pronounced short like ‘pull’ it means *weed*, but when it is pronounced long like ‘pool’ it means *glue*. Another example is the word *check*, which means *book*. However, the word ‘book’ itself does not mean check. It means *drum*!

Currently, Rwanda is a trilingual country. Due to historical events which have heavily affected the country, there are three official languages:

Kinyarwanda, French, and English. Therefore, loanwords may have different interpretation depending on the speaker's background. In most cases, the French meaning seems to be predominant. The most striking example of ambiguity is within the area of education (such ambiguous words are most common in the area of education). Why does French gain over English in this area? This has to do with the sociolinguistic background of French in Rwanda.

The presence of a high rate of French loanwords finds its origin in the colonial period. However, today the English influence is growing rapidly. Of course, some English loanwords came into Kinyarwanda (very often via Kiswahili) by the same time French was being introduced. Today deceptive loanwords present conflicting meaning and pronunciation for Rwandan bilinguals. In French and English there are half deceptive cognates and full deceptive cognates. For half deceptive cognates, the primary meaning or the secondary meaning of a given word may be deceptive, while the other has the same meaning in either language.

DECEPTIVE COGNATES AND SEMANTIC ASPECT IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The use of some deceptive cognates very often leads to difficulties in interpreting and evaluating degrees for French and English speakers from different linguistic backgrounds of their education systems. For example, the word *bachelier* means "a secondary school leaver" in France and in the former French speaking colonies.

In Rwanda, a former Belgian colony, *bachelier* means "a 2-3 year university degree", just slightly below the BA (Bachelor of Arts), a 4-year University programme in the Anglo-American educational system. BA holders are very often taken for those holding the University *baccalauréat* degree. Those who were educated in the former system consider them as *bacheliers* (two-year University degree holders). The semantic complexity also exists with the use of the word *licence*, "a 4 or 5-year University degree" in Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Belgium. In these countries it is a second university degree. In France and some other French-speaking countries, especially former French colonies, the *licence* is the first university degree offered on completion of a 2-3 year university programme.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

A few deceptive cognates have been randomly selected in order to illustrate just the semantic

complexity in three official languages of Rwanda: French, English, Kinyarwanda. The English translation of French and Kinyarwanda sentences is provided between brackets.

- agenda versus agenda

agenda (French): date book, diary

agenda (English): list of items to be considered at a meeting

agenda (Kinyarwanda): date book, diary, or items to be considered at a meeting

Son agenda est plein d'adresses téléphoniques. (His **diary** is full of phone addresses).

Paul n'est pas arrivé au cours car il avait un programme très surchargé. (Paul could not attend the class because he had a busy **agenda**).

Yaguze agenda itukura. (He has bought a red **date book**).

- assistance versus assistance

assistance (French) : attendance, assistance

assistance (English) : help, aid, support

Umwasisita (Kinyarwanda): doctor-attendant, lecturer-attendant

L'assistance au cours est obligatoire. (**Attendance** at lectures is compulsory).

Pierre a assisté à cette conférence plus de deux fois. Peter attended this lecture more than two times.

Ariga ishuri ry'abasisita. He is studying nursing or He is attending a **nursing school**.

- assurance versus assurance

assurance (French) : certainty, guarantee, insurance

assurance (AmE) : trustworthy statement, promise, (BrE insurance)

asuranse (Kinyarwanda) : insurance

Je te conseille de prendre une assurance contre le vol. (I advise you to take out an **insurance** policy against theft/burglary).

Nous tous avons une ferme assurance que le pays sera un jour prospère. We all have firm **assurance** that one day the country will be prosperous).

Yishyize muri asuranse kugira ngo arihirwe minerivari y'abana. (He has been covered with education **insurance** to get support for his children's school fees).

- audience versus audience

audience (French) : court hearing, appointment

audience (English) : people listening to or watching a performance, speech. TV show, formal meeting, or attending a hearing.

Odiyanse (Kinyarwanda): appointment, court hearing

L'audience de vendredi passé était houleux. (Last Friday's **hearing** was overcrowded).

Le public était déçu car le spectacle était trop court. (The **audience** was disappointed because the show was too short).

Unsabire odiyanse kwa muganga. (Please, request an **appointment** with the doctor on my behalf).

- auditeur versus auditor

auditeur (French): listener, attendant

auditor: (English): officer responsible for verification of accounts

oditeri (Kinyarwanda): attendant, auditor

Notre université accepte des étudiants auditeurs-libres. Cependant, ils n'ont ni droit aux crédits ni documents académiques, tels que les relevés des notes et l'attestation de fréquentation. (Our university accepts free **attendant students**. However, they are neither entitled to any credits nor academic documents, such as grade transcripts and attendance certificate).

Yohani asigaye yiga nk'umuwoditeri libure. (John is now studying as an auditee student).

- avertissement versus advertisement

avertissement (French) : warning

advertisement (English) : announcement, notice for something for sale

averitisona (Kinyarwanda): warning

Il est regrettable que beaucoup de gens n'écoutent pas les avertissements. (It is a pity that many people do not listen to the **warnings**).

Le matin, les gens se précipitent aux kiosques pour trouver des annonces publicitaires sur l'emploi. (In the morning, people rush to the stands to read **advertisements** on job offers).

Yahawe averitisona iheruka ku kazi kubera imyitwarire ye mibi. (He has received the last **warning** from his employer because of his misconduct).

- bachelier versus bachelor

bachelier (French): who has completed the baccalaureate, A level holder, or a two or three year university degree holder (in some French-speaking countries)

bachelor (English): unmarried man

Bachelor of Arts (English): a first university degree holder

Basholiye (Kinyarwanda): a 2-3 year university holder)

Nous acceptons uniquement les bacheliers au poste de comptable. (Only people with the **baccalaureate** are eligible for the post of accountant).

J'ai deux frères; l'un est déjà marié, l'autre un célibataire endurci. (I have two brothers; one is already married, the other is a confirmed **bachelor** (single)).

Nous avons engagé beaucoup de licenciés ès lettres. Nous avons maintenant besoin de gens qui ont le doctorat. (We have hired many teachers with a **Bachelor** of Arts (BA). From now on we will only employ people with a PhD).

Ntabwo mu iyi minsi ababasholiye bakibona akazi vuba. (**People holding 2-3-year University degree** hardly get a job quickly nowadays).

- bagage versus baggage

bagage (French) : piece of luggage, load, background

baggage (BrE), *luggage* (AmE): all the bags and other containers a person travels with

bagaje (Kinyarwanda): baggage, luggage

Tes bagages pèsent trop. Tu dois payer l'excédent. (Your **luggage** is too heavy. You have to pay for the extra weight).

Il n'a pas assez de bagage scientifique pour faire sa maîtrise. (He hasn't got enough scientific **background** to do his Masters).

Bagaje ye yatakaye ku kibuga cy'indege. (His **luggage** was lost at the airport).

- ballot versus ballot

ballot (French): bundle

ballot (English): vote bulletin

ibaro (Kinyarwanda): bundle

Le ballot contenant des vêtements usés, coûte moins cher. (A second hand clothe **bundle** is not expensive).

Au moment du comptage des bulletins de vote, les observateurs des élections ont remarqué qu'il y avait une fraude massive aux élections présidentielles. (While the **ballots** were being counted, the election observation team noticed that there was serious rigging during the presidential elections).

Amaze guhambura baro ya cumi y'imyenda, yasanze amafaranga menshi. (On opening the tenth **bundle** of clothes, he found much money inside).

- bénéfice versus benefit

bénéfice (French) : profit

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benefit (English): advantage, allowance, good effect, profit

benefise (Kinyarwanda): profit

*Il réalise des **bénéfices** considérables avec l'internet-café.* (Thanks to the internet-café considerable **profits** are yielded).

*Son pays paie des **allocations** de chômage.* (His country pays unemployment **benefits**).

*Nta **benefise** ishimishije akibona kubera ko igiciro cy'ikawha cyamanutse.* (He no longer gets considerable profits because the price of coffee has gone down).

- candidature versus candidature, candidat versus candidate

candidature (French): application for employment, position

candidature (AmE): candidacy, the state of being a candidate

candidat (French): applicant for employment, position, examination

candidate (English): a person taking an examination, who wants to be chosen for a position, especially in an election

umukandida (Kinyarwanda): a person who wants to be chosen for a position.

*Le jury a rejeté sa **candidature** au poste de directeur général.* (The Jury has rejected his **application** for the post of Director General).

*Combien de **candidats** se sont présentés à ce concours d'admission?* (How many **applicants** were there at the entrance examination?).

Umukandida w'ishyaka ryabo yatsinzwe. (The **candidate** from their political party has failed).

- caractère versus character

caractère (French): behaviour

character (English): moral nature, able to play an unusual part in a play

karagiteri (Kinyarwanda): behaviour

*Ta soeur a un **caractère** irréprochable.* (Your sister has an irreproachable **character**).

*Le **personnage** principal dans *Animal Farm* de George Orwell est un cochon appelé Napoléon.* (The major **character** in *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is a pig called Napoleon).

Afite *karagiteri* inuhije. (He has a bad **behaviour**).

- certificat versus certificate

certificat (French): certificate, card

certificate (English): an official sheet of paper (document) on which is written or printed a statement

seritifika (Kinyarwanda): certificate

*Il ne peut pas voyager parce qu'il a perdu son **certificat** de vaccination.* (He cannot travel because he has lost his vaccination **certificate**/card).

*Regarde mon **attestation** de naissance; je suis né à la fête de Noël.* (Look at my birth **certificate**; I was born on Christmas).

*Yohana yahawe **dipolome** y'amashuri yisumbuye.* (John has just been awarded a secondary school **certificate**).

- chimiste versus chemist

chimiste (French): scientist who specializes in chemistry

chemist (English): scientist who specializes in chemistry, pharmacist, drug seller

umushimisite (Kinyarwanda): chemist (specialized in chemistry)

*L'erreur commise par le **pharmacien** a causé la mort de plusieurs malades.* (The **chemist**'s error caused the death of several patients).

*Il est devenu **ingénieur chimiste** après 5 ans d'études universitaires en chimie.* (He became a **chemical engineer** on completion of 5 years of university studies in chemistry).

Umushimisite abona akazi bitamuruhuje. (A **chemical engineer** gets a job more easily).

- collège versus college

collège (French): high school

college (English): within university, school

ikoleji (Kinyarwanda): high school

*Grâce aux meilleurs résultats obtenus au **collège**, il a eu une bourse d'études pour continuer ses études à l'étranger.* (Thanks to his outstanding results from **high school**, he got a scholarship to pursue his studies abroad).

L'université qu'il fréquente n'offre que le programme du 1er cycle. (The college he is attending only offers a first degree programme).

*Yize amashuri ye yisumbuye muri **koleji** y'abihayimana ba bajezuwite.* (He did his secondary studies in a Jesuits' **high school**).

- compas versus compass

compas (French): a pair of compasses

compass (English): a device for indicating a geographical direction (e.g. North)

ikompa (Kinyarwanda): a pair of compasses

*Alfred ne sait pas tracer le cercle avec un **compas**.* (Alfred does not know how to draw a circle with **compasses**).

Les navigateurs utilisent très souvent la boussole pour connaître le nord. (Sailors very often use a **compass** to identify the north).

Unzanire ikompa yanjye nce kugirango nshushanye imfuruka. (Bring me my **compasses** so that I can draw an angle).

- congrégation versus congregation

congrégation (French): religious association, corporation, religious order, body

congregation (English): a group of people gathered together

kongeregasiyo (Kinyarwanda): religious order

Paul a rejoint la congrégation des Pères Barnabites à Milan. (Paul has joined the religious **order** of Barnabites Fathers in Milan).

Le prêtre vient de dire au revoir à l'assemblée. (The priest has just dismissed the **congregation**).

Karoli yinjije muri kongeregasiyo y'abihayimana ba Bafuratori ba Bamirisite umwaka ushize. (Charles entered the religious order of Marist Brothers last year).

- décevoir versus deceive

décevoir (French): disappoint

deceive (English): to cause to accept as true or good what is false or bad

kudeseva (Kinyarwanda): to disappoint

Son comportement m'a fort déçu. (His attitude **disappointed** me a lot).

Le diable les trompe très souvent, mais ils ne s'en rendent pas compte. (The devil very often **deceives** them, but they are not aware).

Umukunzi we yaramudesevye. (His/her beloved one **has disappointed** him/her).

- degré versus degree

degré (French): grade, degree

degree (English): a step or stage in a set of steps or stages rising in order from lowest to highest

dogere: grade, degree

Grâce à sa performance, il a atteint le plus haut degré dans sa carrière. (Thanks to his performance, he has reached the highest grade in his career).

Pierre a obtenu son diplôme universitaire en 1982. (Peter got his university degree in 1982).

Ubushyuhe bugeze muri dogere 25. (The temperature has risen up to 25 degrees).

Yohana afite impamyabumenyi ikirenga y'icyiciro cya gatatu cya kaminuza mu mateka ya vuba y'isi. (John holds a PhD degree in Contemporary History).

- délai versus delay

délai (French): deadline

delay (English): the act of putting off until later

dele (Kinyarwanda): deadline

L'étudiant a bel et bien envoyé sa demande avant le délai du dépôt des candidatures. (The student sent his application before the deadline).

Le retard dans la remise du rapport lui a causé un échec profond. (The delay in handing out the report led to his absolute failure).

Umukoresha we yamuhaye dele y'iminsi itatu. (His employer has given him a deadline of three days).

- délivrer versus deliver

délivrer (French): to free, to hand out, to issue

deliver (English): to help in giving birth, to set free, to hand over

kudelivura (Kinyarwanda): to hand out, to issue

Pilate, le gouverneur romain, a délivré Barabas, le criminel, et livré Jésus aux mains de principaux sacrificateurs pour être crucifié. (Pilate **freed** Barabas, the gangster, and **handed out** Jesus to the high priests to be crucified).

Le Direction d'Immigration et d'Emigration délivre les passeports du lundi au vendredi dans la matinée. (The Immigration Office **issues** passports from Monday to Friday in the morning).

Ce dernier temps notre poste a commencé à distribuer le courrier dans le quartier. (Our post office has started to **deliver** mail in this area).

L'imprimerie livre à domicile. (The printing house **delivers** home).

Je dois féliciter mon épouse qui a mis au monde un garçon, mon premier né. (I have to congratulate my wife who **has delivered** a male child, my first-born).

Mu biro bishinzwe abimuka n'abasohoka mu gihugu badelivura pasiporo buri munsu mugitondo ureste muri wikende. (The Immigration Office **issues** passports every day in the morning except on weekends).

- démonstration versus demonstration

démonstration (French): show, exhibition

demonstration (English): protest, a public show of strong feeling or opinion

demositarasiyo (Kinyarwanda): show

Des jeunes acrobates feront une démonstration au stade. (Young acrobats will have an **exhibition** at the stadium).

Les musulmans radicalistes ont organisé une manifestation pour protester contre le frappe

militaire en Irak. (Islamic fundamentalists have organized a **demonstration** to protest against the military strike on Iraq).

Abakozi bakora muri laboratware baradukorera demonsitarasiyo y'ukuntu amazi avamo umwuka. (Laboratory workers will **show** us how water evaporates).

- député versus deputy

député (French) : member of parliament

deputy (English) : a person who has the power to act for another

umudepite (Kinyarwanda): member of parliament

Il a été élu député aux élections précédentes. (He became **Member of Parliament /Representative** (US) during the last elections).

Mon remplaçant n'assume plus les fonctions de directeur général. (My **deputy** no longer occupies the post of a Managing Director).

Umudepite wo mw'ishyaka rye yadusuye. (The **Member of Parliament** from his political party has visited us).

- diplôme versus diploma

diplôme (French): degree, certificate

diploma (English): an official paper showing that a person has successfully finished a course or passed an examination

dipolome (Kinyarwanda): degree, certificate

Il a obtenu son diplôme de licence en histoire à l'Université d'Anvers. (He got his **BA degree** in History from the University of Antwerp).

A la fin de 10 mois de formation en informatique de gestion, il lui a été décerné un certificat de réussite. (He was awarded a **diploma** on completion of a ten-year course in information management).

Yabonye dipolome ya license nyuma y'imyaka ine y'amashuri ya kaminuza. (He got his BA degree on completion of 4 years of university studies).

- distraction versus distraction

distraktion (French) : entertainment, absent-mindedness

distraktion (English): the act of taking a person's mind off something

disitaragisiyo (Kinyarwanda): entertainment

Quelle est ta distraktion favorite? La natation. (What is your favorite **distraktion**? Swimming).

Sa distraktion lui fait oublier même sa carte d'identité. (Because of his **absent-mindedness**, he even forgets his identity card).

Ukwiriye kwigira ahantu hatari disitaragisiyo. (You should study in a **quiet location**).

- effectif versus effective

effectif (French) : in force, definite, strength

effective (English): producing the desired result (efficace in French)

efegitife (Kinyarwanda): in force, number

Zadig, personnage principal dans l'oeuvre de Voltaire, Zadig, a révélé au roi Nabussan une méthode efficace de trouver un trésorier honnête. (Zadig, a major character in Voltaire's work, *Zadig*, revealed to King Nabussan an **effective** method of finding an honest treasurer).

La loi sera effective dès le 1er janvier 2007. (The law will be **effective** from January 1, 2007).

Kugeza ubu nta bwo twaritwamenya efegitife nyayo y'abanyeshuri biga mu iki kigo. (Up to now, we do not know yet the exact number of students from this school).

- engin versus engine

engin (French) : machine, device, instrument, appliance

engine (English): a piece of machinery with moving parts which changes power into movement

anje (Kinyarwanda): machine, device

Cet engin utilise du gaz méthane. (This **device/instrument/machine** uses methane gas.)

Le moteur de la voiture fait un bruit étrange. (The **engine** of the car is making a strange noise).

Umukanishi yashyize amavuta muri anje iya mu kirere. (The mechanic has put oil in the **spacecraft**).

- excitant versus exciting

excitant (French) : provocative, stimulant

exciting (English) : interesting, pleasant

egisita (Kinyarwanda) : stimulant

Le gouvernement a interdit l'usage des boissons excitantes. (The government has banned the use of **stimulant** beverages).

Sa victoire au marathon est formidable. Il ne s'y attendait pas. (His victory in the racing is **exciting**. He did not expect he could win).

Je voudrais te raconter l'histoire la plus passionnante que j'aie jamais lue. (I would like to tell you **the most exciting** story I have ever read).

Abantu bakwiriye kwirinda ibinyobwa byegisita. (People should avoid **stimulant** drinks).

- experience versus experience

expérience (French): experience, experiment

experience (English): knowledge, event

egisiperiyanse (Kinyarwanda): experience, experiment

Le professeur de chimie a fait une longue expérience au laboratoire. (The teacher of chemistry has performed a long experiment in the laboratory).

Yakoze egisiperiyanse nziza kugirango yerekane uko bakora isukari. (He did a good **experiment** to show how sugar is processed).

- formation versus formation

formation (French): training, formation

formation (English): composition

forumasiyo (Kinyarwanda): training, composition

La formation en informatique est un besoin pressant. (**Training** in computer science is an urgent need).

La formation de l'équipe du basketball a quelques faiblesses. (The **formation** of the basketball team has some weaknesses).

Forumasiyo y'abapolisi izabera mu nzu y'inama ejo. (The **training** programme for the police will take place in the meeting room tomorrow).

- furniture versus furniture

fourniture (French): supplies

furniture (English): house equipment

furunitire (Kinyarwanda):supplies

La fourniture en bois connaît des moments difficiles de nos jours. (Wood **supply** is at its most strenuous moment these days).

Les meubles de sa maison sont très chers. (His house **furniture** is very expensive).

Ndagusaba ko wampa furunitire y'ibikoresho byo mu biro mu minsi ya vuba. (I would like to ask you to send me office **supplies** in the near future).

- informations versus information

informations (French) : news, bulletin

information (English) : facts

enforumasiyo (Kinyarwanda) : facts, news

Les informations en français nous sont parvenues tardivement. (**News** in French came to us too late).

Les renseignements fournis n'étaient pas du tout fiables. (The **information** provided was not reliable at all).

Enforumasiyo yatanze zatugiriye akamaro mu kazi. (The **information** he gave was very useful for the work).

- lecture versus lecture

lecture (French) : reading

lecture (English) : a speech spoken or read before a group of people, as a method of teaching at universities

legitiire (Kinyarwanda): reading

Ce professeur enseigne bien la lecture cursive en anglais. (This teacher conducts a cursory **reading** class well in English).

Certaines personnes n'étaient pas présentes à la conférence sur le livre de George Orwell: La ferme des animaux. (Some people did not attend the **lecture** on George Orwell's novel, *Animal Farm*).

Wasanze bamaze gukora legitiire y'amazina. (They have just **read** the names).

- library versus librairie

librairie (French) : bookshop

library (English) : a building or part of a building that contains books that may be read or borrowed, a collection of books.

Libureri (for a bilingual French speaking Rwandan): bookshop

Layibureri (for a bilingual English speaking Rwandan): a place for reading and borrowing books

Cette librairie vend des livres à un prix très exorbitant. (This **bookshop** sells books at a very high price.)

La bibliothèque nationale a été sérieusement pillée pendant la guerre. (The national **library** was seriously looted during the war).

Ngiye gusomera muri bibiliyoteke (I am going to read in the **library**).

Ngiye gusomera muri layibureri (I am going to read in the **library**).

Libureri Caritas irahenda (Caritas **bookshop** is expensive).

Yagiye gusoma muri layibureri (He has gone to read books in the **library**).

- licence versus licence

licence (French) : 4/5-year university degree in French speaking countries

licence (English) : official paper, card, showing that a permission was given to do something, authorisation.

Lisanse (Kinyarwanda): 4/5-year university degree, fuel, permit

Il a un diplôme de licence en droit. (He has a **Bachelor** degree in law).

*Le chauffeur a été sérieusement puni parce qu'il conduisait sans **permis de conduire**.* (The driver was heavily punished because he was driving without a **driving license**.)

Afite **lisanse** mu ndimi (He holds a **Bachelor degree** in languages).

Afite **layisense** yo kuroba amafi manini mu cyiyaga (for a Rwandan English speaker). (He has a **fishing permit** to fish big fish in the lake).

- note versus note

note (French) : grade, note

note (English) : short word message, bank note

inota/inote (Kinyarwanda): grade/bank note, musical note

*L'étudiant a été chassé de l'école parce qu'il a eu une **note** inférieure à 10/20.* (The student was expelled from school because he got a **grade** below 10/20).

*Le **billet** de banque de mille francs de 1998 n'aura plus cours légal l'année prochaine.* (The 1998 one thousand francs bank **note** will no longer be in use next year).

Afite **amanota** meza mu mibare. (He has good **grades** in Mathematics).

- occasion versus occasion

occasion (French) : opportunity, occasion

occasion (English) : event, ceremony

okaziyo (Kinyarwanda): opportunity

*Ne ratez jamais l'**occasion** qui vous est offerte pour réussir.* (Do not miss the **opportunity** offered to you in order to succeed).

*A l'**occasion** de la fête nationale de l'indépendance, il a prononcé un discours émouvant.* (On the **occasion** of the Independence Day, he made a thrilling speech.)

*Ntabwo ajya agira **okaziyo** yo guhura n'abategetsi.* (He has never had an **opportunity** to meet authorities).

- physicien versus physician

physicien (French): physicist

physician (English): medical doctor

umufiziye (Kinyarwanda): physicist

*Monsieur Ali Baba est **physicien** dans une grande entreprise de fabrication d'armes à feu.* (Mr. Ali Baba is a **physicist** in a big manufacturing fire arm firm).

*Sa maladie a été soignée par un **médecin** de grand renom.* (His ailment was treated by a highly reputed **physician**).

- politique versus politics

politique (French) : politics, policy

politics (English) : ideology

politike (Kinyarwanda): politics, policy

*La **politique** du pays sur les relations extérieures est bien solide.* (The **policy** of the country on external relations is very strong.)

*La **politique** exige une tactique psychologique.* (**Politics** requires psychological strategy.)

*Abantu birukira muri **politike** bahura n'ibibazo mu **buzima**.* (People who rush in **politics** have serious problems in life).

- professeur versus professor

professeur (French): teacher (secondary), professor/lecturer (university)

professor (English): university lecturer

umuprofeseri (Kinyarwanda): secondary and tertiary teacher

Le professeur de maths dans un lycée est très respecté. (A teacher of Mathematics in a secondary school is highly respected).

*Notre **professeur** n'a pas enseigné aujourd'hui à cause d'une pluie torrentielle.* (Our **lecturer** did not teach today because of a heavy rain.)

Umuprofeseri ntabwo ahembwa umushahara utubutse. (A **teacher/lecturer** does not earn a high salary).

- publicité versus publicity

publicité (French) : advertisement, advertising, publicity

publicity (English) : public notice or attention

pubulisite (Kinyarwanda): advertisement, publicity

*Pendant les élections, les candidats parlementaires font d'intense **publicité**.* (During the election campaigns, parliamentarian candidates conduct intensive **publicity**).

*Il a gagné beaucoup de sous parce qu'il a fait assez de **publicité** de son nouveau produit.* (He gained a lot of money because he did enough **advertising** of his new product).

*Yakorewe **pubulisite** y'ibicuruzwa bye n'inzobere kuri radio maze arunguka.* (An expert did **advertising** of his product on the radio and he got much profit).

- sensible versus sensible

sensible (French): sensitive

sensible (English): reasonable, showing good sense

sansibule (Kinyarwanda): sensitive

Un enfant est sensible aux remarques de ses parents. (A child is sensitive to the remarks of his parents).

Ses nerfs ne sont plus sensibles car il a attrapé la lèpre. (His nerves are no longer **sensitive** because he has been infected with leprosy).

Ni umuntu sansibule ku bibazo by'akarengane. (He is **sensitive** to injustice).

- sentence versus sentence

sentence (French): condemnation, sentence

sentence (English): a grammatical structure of one or more words.

isenteso (Kinyarwanda): sentence

Il a construit une fausse phrase. (He made a wrong **sentence**).

Le procureur a requis une peine capitale contre le criminel. (The prosecutor requested the **death sentence** for the criminal).

Isenteso yakoze irimo ikibazo. (There is something wrong with the **sentence** he has made).

- stage versus stage

stage (French): training course

stage (English): steps, platform

sitaje (Kinyarwanda): training course

Cette pièce de théâtre exige une estrade attrayante. (This play requires an attractive **stage**).

Pierre ne sera pas disponible avant la semaine prochaine parce qu'il est en stage. (Peter will not be available until next week because he's on a training **course**).

Yamaze iminsi myinshi muri sitaje. (He spent many days on a training **course**.)

- substitut versus substitute

substitut (French): deputy prosecutor

substitute (English): replacement

umusibusititi (Kinyarwanda): deputy prosecutor

Le substitut a examiné le cas de l'accusé et requis un emprisonnement provisoire. (The **deputy prosecutor** has examined the case of the accused and requested that he be held in prison temporarily).

Après avoir reçu la commande d'une machine à additionner, le fournisseur a offert à son client un produit de remplacement parce qu'il ne pouvait pas trouver le produit exact commandé. (On receipt of the order of an adding machine, the supplier offered a **substitute** to his customer because he did not have the exact ordered product).

Umusubusititi yasabyeko bakora anketi irambuye ku bwicanyi bwabereye mu kigo cy'amashuri. (The **deputy prosecutor** has requested that a thorough investigation be conducted on the massacre which took place in a school).

- sympathique versus sympathetic

sympathique (French): likeable, nice

sympathetic (English): compassionate, understanding

sempatike (Kinyarwanda): likeable, nice

Charles est un enseignant sympathique. (Charles is a **likeable** teacher)

Marie est une fille compréhensive. (Mary is a **sympathetic** girl)

Karoli ni umwarimu sempatike, akundwa n'abantu bose. (Charles is a likeable teacher, he is loved by many people).

- tape versus tape

tape (French): type, knock, blow

tape (English): ribbon

tape (Kinyarwanda): knock, blow

Il fait une mauvaise tape sur la machine à écrire. (He made a wrong **type** on the typing machine).

Il ne faut pas endommager la bande magnétique. (Do not damage the magnetic **tape**).

Yakoze tape itari yo maze ibyo yanditse biragenda. (He made a wrong **type** and what he had written went off).

- voyage versus voyage

voyage (French): trip, travel, journey, voyage

voyage (English): travel by sea

ivwayaje (Kinyarwanda): any travel

Je serai en voyage dans plusieurs pays à partir de demain. (I shall be undertaking a **trip** in several countries from tomorrow).

Yakoze ivwayaje ndende kuva i Buruseli kugera i Kigali. (He has made a long **trip** from Brussels to Kigali).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

CONCLUSION

Bilinguals of French and English have a big challenge with deceptive cognates. Unless they possess a high command of the two languages, they will have some obstacles in using deceptive cognates.

However, Obeng (2006:99) observes that loanwords do not always come via bilinguals. A

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monolingual may hear the new word direct from the speaker of another language and try to imitate it. He quotes three stages from Lehiste (1988) in the process of borrowing:

- A bilingual introduces a loan word from language B (the secondary language) to language A (the primary language) in a phonetic form close to the norm in language B.
- A bilingual introduces a loan word from language B (the secondary language) to language A (the primary language) in a phonetic form close to the norm in language B.
- If the bilingual has occasion to repeat it or if other speakers also begin using it, elements of A will be substituted for those of language B.

- If monolinguals learn the loan words, a total or practically total substitution will be made in the sound structure, and the word will be integrated into the grammar as well.

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