

Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Luganda Language Educators in Using Emerging Technologies in the School of Education, Makerere University

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Abstract

Located at the School of Education, Makerere University, this study explored the knowledge, attitude and practices of Luganda language educators in using emerging technologies. The study paradigm was interpretivism with a case design. The study participants were Luganda language teachers who were purposively selected and Luganda language students who were conveniently sampled. Data were collected using an interview guide, focused group discussion guide and observation checklist and analyzed using the thematic content data analysis technique. Findings revealed that Luganda language educators had relevant knowledge of using emerging technologies. They also had positive attitudes toward using emerging technologies because of their benefits. Findings finally revealed that Luganda Language Educators were positive in practising their knowledge of emerging technologies through sharing academic matters with students via platforms such as MUELE and Whatsapp groups and conducting Luganda lectures through zoom and google meetings. The lecturers also keep the students of Luganda updated by communicating with them via emails, MUELE, chats or direct phone calls and SMSs to class leaders. The study concluded that Luganda teacher Educators had knowledge, a positive attitude and practised emerging technologies in Luganda Teacher Education, as evident in teaching interaction, exchange of reading materials, administering and submitting course works and assessing learners. From the study findings, it was recommended that to boost the use of emerging technologies among Luganda teacher educators at the school of education Makerere University, the University Council and relevant policy organs, as well as the school leadership board, should do the following: i. Ensure that the policy of regular training of academic staff in the knowledge of emerging technologies should be enforced. ii. There should be increased sensitization and awareness of academic staff about the benefits of using emerging technologies. iii. Luganda language educators should adopt, apply and maintain excellent practices using emerging technologies. This could be done by encouraging online lectures via platforms such as MUELE; they should also continuously upload educational material on online platforms such as WhatsApp, hold academic engagements/sessions via google meet, conduct online assessments and provide feedback to learners online. Such practices will not only improve

their skills with emerging technologies but also deepen their knowledge and shape a positive attitude and adoption of emerging technologies for effective Luganda language teaching and learning.

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