

## An abstract proposed by Arthur Cimwanga and Helma Pasch

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### The bodypart term "head" in some Bantu and non-Bantu languages of DR Congo

In the languages of the world it is not uncommon that the bodypart term "head" is used metaphorically referring to "intelligence", "importance" and "power". While this also occurs in Bantu languages, it does less so with regard to non-Bantu languages. In Pazande, e.g. power relations are rather expressed by the term for "hand" than for "head".

Furthermore the term head is grammaticalized in many languages into a preposition indicating the topological position of (a Figure) the face or the forehead on or above the ground. In Africa, particularly, in non-Bantu languages such as Pazande this development based on an anthropomorphic model, can be observed, however, Bantu languages tend to express this concept by the term for "sky" on the basis of a cosmological model. Expressions like "at the end of an elongated object" or "at the head of the group walking" is based on a zoomorphic model. The metaphorization of the term didn't, however, proceed so far as to use it in temporal expressions.

The use of the term in expressions of emotions, sensations and certain character traits or behaviours appears (to be) more frequently, in non-Bantu languages than in Bantu languages.

()	<i>mang</i> <i>a</i>	<i>nyak</i> <i>a</i>	<i>ri</i>
	make	stron g	Hea d
	'be stubborn' (Zande)		

()	... <i>wa</i>	<i>ri-ko</i>	<i>na-gbi.</i>
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	like	head-3 m	II-burn
	... as if his head was on fire (Zande)		

Quite important is the use of the term “head” or for “face, front”, the denotation for a major part of the head, in expressions referring to a leading person in social relations; e.g. *mwenyampala* “he who has a face”, i.e. the one who leads a group (3). It is also found in further metaphorized metaphorical constructions containing the term "head" as in the term *mutu wa kawulu* “locomotive” which is also used to denote the rich person in a family who keeps things running and who has a saying in how things are done (4). Such constructions are more frequent in Bantu languages than in non-Bantu languages.

()	<i>mw-eny-a-mpala</i>
	1-having-CONN-face
	leader (Ciluba)

()	<i>mu-tu</i>	<i>w-a</i>	<i>ka-wulu</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12-train
	locomotive / the rich person in the family (Ciluba)		

()	<i>Mutu ,a mbuji</i>
	1-goat's head
	Special device (Ciluba)

()	<i>mu-tu</i>	<i>w-a</i>	<i>mbuji</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12-goat
	special / device (Ciluba)		

()	<i>Mutu muulu</i>
	1- head up
	Lowbred young (Ciluba)

()	<i>mu-tu</i>	<i>mu</i>	<i>diulu</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12-air

	Head in the air with no control (Ciluba)
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()	<i>Moto pasi</i>
	1 troublesome person
	(Lingala)

()	<i>mo-to</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>pasi</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12-sufrings
	Someone who often provokes troubles(Lingala)		

()	<i>Mutu bwashi</i>
	1 an idiot
	(ciluba)

()	<i>mutu</i>	<i>mwa</i>	<i>bwashi</i>
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	3-head	1-CONN	12-sufrings
	Head without intelligence (Ciluba)		

()	<i>Mutu mu mayi</i>
	1 failure
	(ciluba)

()	<i>mutu</i>	<i>mu</i>	<i>mayi</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12-sufrings
	Head in the water (Ciluba)		

()	<i>Moto libanga</i>
	1 incorrigible
	(lingala)

()	<i>moto</i>	<i>ya</i>	<i>libanga</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12 stone
	Head of stone (lingala)		

()	<i>Moto make bongo ebele</i>
	1 genius
	(lingala)

()	<i>moto</i>	<i>ya</i>	<i>Moke, bongo ya ebele</i>
	3-head	1-CONN	12 stone
	Small head (lingala) much intelligence		

## Conclusion

The head has plenty of meanings in African languages bantu and non bantu ones the case of Ciluba, Pazande and Lingala we referred to. The main meanings deriving from the head refer to the leader, the manager, the chief, it also refers to the faculty of thinking, brain, that is the hard disk of an individual. The success or failure are connected to the head in many African languages. The case of moto libanga which refers to the incapacity of changing the behaviour by someone in spite of innumerable advice. On the other hand, in moto moke bongo ebele, Lingala language refers to the word head to symbolize the brain, the intelligence which is specifically found in the head.