

Kikuyu Terminologies:

1. **Mbarĩ** - Lineage: A lineage is formed by an individual who distinguishes themselves as a great and wealthy person. Within one family, multiple lineage can emerge. For example, Kariũki's lineage comprises several lineages.
2. **Mũhĩrĩga (singular) / Mĩhĩrĩga (plural)** - Clan(s): Clans do not multiply like lineages, and there are only ten clans among the Agĩkuyũ. Kariũki's lineage has married and intermarried with various clans, including Anjirũ, Agacikũ, Ambũi, Angũi aka Aithiegeni, Angechi aka Aithĩrandũ, Aacera, Ambura aka Aakĩũrũ aka Eethaga, Airimũ aka Agathiigia, Angarĩ aka Aithekahuno and Aicakamũyũ, which is a unique clan with a special history.
3. **Gĩthaku (singular) / Ithaku (Plural)** - Nucleus family within a homestead: In a polygamous family, each nuclear family is referred to as a Gĩthaku, with the name of the wife. For instance, Patriarch Kariũki has thirteen Ithaku.
4. **Mũtiga-irĩ** - A person who has passed away and has left significant wealth, land, and many children and wives. The goal of every Mugĩkũyũ was to 'die' as a Mũtiga-irĩ. The Agĩkũyũ never believed in total death; the deceased were referred to as Ngoma or the living dead.
5. **Ngoma** - The sleeping ones: The word 'ngoma' comes from the verb 'gũkoma' (to sleep). The deceased are collectively

known as 'ngoma,' and this term should not be confused with the Devil or Satan, as it has no such connotation.

6. **Mumwo nĩ-irĩ** - The one who 'dies' having left nothing: Such a person is a disgrace to their parents, lineage, clan, and the entire community.
7. **Maitũ** - A respectable term for one's mother.
8. **Baba** - A respectable term for one's father.
9. **Mũthee** - A derogatory term referring to someone who is aging, which comes from the Kiswahili word 'Mzee.' Among the Agĩkũyũ, it has become increasingly contemptuous.
10. **Mũthuri / Athuri** - A Mugĩkũyũ Elder, derived from the verb 'gũthura' meaning to select. Mũthuri is someone who can select wisely and is a person of wisdom.
11. **Nyina** - Mother of: A respectful term used when addressing the mother of your friend, using her child's name.
12. **Ithe** - Father of: Similar to 'Nyina,' this term is used when addressing the father of your friend, using the child's name.
13. **Cũcũ** - A respectable term for one's grandmother on both sides of your parents.
14. **Guka** - A respectable term for one's grandfather on both sides of your parents.

15. **Tata** - Refers to both aunts and cousins. It can also be used for close cousins.
16. **Mama** - Uncle of your mother's brothers. Friends of your parents should not be referred to as Uncle.
17. **Baba Mükürü** - Your father's oldest brother(s).
18. **Baba Münyinyi** - Your father's youngest brother(s).
19. **Müthoni (singular) / Athoni (Plural)** - Your marriage relatives, traditionally known as "in-laws."