Kami is a highly endangered, under-described Eastern Bantu language. It is reported to be spoken by 5,518 people in the Morogoro region of Tanzania (Languages of Tanzania Project, 2009) but the number of fluent speakers left is significantly lower, as was established during field trips to the area (2008, 2009, 2014).

PHONETIC CREATIVITY
- No tone, regular penultimate stress.
- The phoneme status of the fricatives is difficult to establish conclusively. The sound [f], apart from the realisation of the phoneme /f/, is also found as an allophone of /v/, for example in class 8 nominal prefix vi-/fi-.. What is more, there used to be an active contrast between fi and pf as seen in -fi-kà and -pfemba (Gérard Philippson, p.c.), but nowadays, /pf/ appears to have merged with /f/: -fi- /fika/ ‘arrive’ < * plk and -pfemba ‘swell’ < *-bimb.
- Wide-ranging variation for the alveolar fricative /z/. The most common realisations are [z] and [ts]: muv-ezi/muetsi ‘moon’, but [n] and [s] can also be heard. For instance, the word ‘water’ can be ma-nzi, ma-zi or ma-tsi.
- Voiced plosives can be preceded by nasals both within stems and across morpheme boundaries. With some speakers, a trill release is found with /nd/ ([nd]) and even with /mb/ ([mb]), as in -kambúaka ‘to remember’.

THE VERSATILE BULE
- ‘nothing at all’, ‘not yet’
- A versatile morpheme that can occur independently or take inflection.
- Found in the neighbouring languages Kutu, Kwere, and Zaramo, although not in as many shapes and with as many different meanings as in Kami.
- Related to the Swahili bure ‘for free’, ‘in vain’?

REFERENCES
Petzell, Malin & Lotta Aunio n.d. The Kami language. Accepted to The Bantu Languages, 2nd ed.