

The African Languages Project

8.1 Intellectualisation of isiZulu in four selected Universities in the province of KwaZulu-Natal

At the moment, the main project is titled, Intellectualisation of isiZulu in four selected Universities in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It is funded by the NIHSS, with Prof. Nobuhle Ndimande-Hlongwa as the project leader and grant recipient, and also involves participating researchers from UKZN, MUT, DUT, and UniZulu.

The purpose of the research project is to produce the following outputs:

1. A special journal issue of *Alternation*;
2. Online dictionaries;
3. A bilingual English-IsiZulu curriculum consisting of 24 modules; and
4. To host 4 sets of 5-day training workshops for capacity building.

8.2 The Current Project Status and Four Sub-Projects

The project involves a team of eight researchers, across four universities in KwaZulu-Natal, with multidisciplinary expertise within the broader field of humanities. Each team member was allocated specific roles and responsibilities which were discussed and included in the collaboration document. Graduate students were recruited and trained to work as research assistants in individual projects depending on their strengths and interests.

The project intends to address the sub-objectives from multiple perspectives, termed, Project 1, Project 2, Project 3 and Project 4. These projects are running in concurrently and are being led by individual team members. Each team member was allocated a project according to his/her area of specialisation and was required to form a team which includes graduate students for capacity building.

Project 1 – Publication of a Special Journal Issue of *Alternation*

Alternation is a DHET-accredited interdisciplinary journal that publishes research in the Arts and Humanities. A journal issue with the theme *Intellectualisation of African Languages in Higher Education Institutions as a Strategy for Decolonisation and Transformation*, is currently underway. The theme of this special issue is linked to the broad context of decolonization and transformation of the curriculum in the South African Higher Education context. Research on language intellectualisation is at the centre of creating humanities and social sciences scholarship¹.

Project 2 – Content Development

Project 2, on content development, will be initiated in early 2022, with the language champions in the six schools within the College of Humanities at UKZN.

Project 3 – The Psychology - Social Work Dictionary

¹ Cf. for instance Ndimande-Hlongwa, Mkhize & Kamwendo 2014 - <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/pages/volume-23-2016/alternation-special-edition-no-18-2016.aspx>; and Mkhize *et al.* 2016 - <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/pages/volume-23-2016/alternation-special-edition-no-18-2016.aspx>.

In project 3, the Psychology – Social Work dictionary is being developed, and articulates with the University Planning and Development Office (ULPDO) that plans to publish a multidisciplinary glossary that includes these disciplines. The plan is to publish this online dictionary jointly.

Project 4 – The Focus on Training and Capacity Building

Four sets of five-day training workshops for postgraduate students, including the ones involved in this research project, have been organised. The focuses were on:

- Academic Writing for Publishing in IsiZulu;
- Translation;
- Bilingual Terminology Development; and
- Review and Editing.

8.3 Current Achievements

A Music textbook for the Introduction to Music Fundamentals A module, was written in English and piloted. This textbook was selected for translation into isiZulu. The process for translation is multifaceted.

One book from Psychology was selected for translation into isiZulu. This book is currently prescribed for both psychology and social work majors at UKZN. The process for translation has been completed and the book is in a piloted review process at present.

The Dictionary Project involves 500 terms, and the book is nearly completed.

A hybrid workshop on Academic Writing for Publishing in IsiZulu [conducted in IsiZulu] was held. 44 participants attended.




The UKZN, School of Arts (NIHSS Catalytic Research Project)
Cordially invites you to a Workshop with

ACADEMIC WRITING IN ISIZULU FOR PUBLISHING

With



PROFFESOR ZILUNGILE LUNGI SOSIBO

WORKSHOP DETAILS
DATE: TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2021
TIME: 09H00 - 15H00

[CLICK TO RSVP](#)

INSPIRING GREATNESS

A colloquium is planned with the College of Humanities at UKZN for February 2022. The colloquium is themed: ***CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL AND UNESCO DECLARATION OF A DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES 2022-2032.***

To be noted is that the School of Arts collaborated with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in delivering a workshop on human language technologies. The workshop took place on 29 November – 03 December 2022. We are also collaborating with the University Language Planning and Development office at UKZN on the publication of the online dictionaries. We will host the Colloquium with the College of Humanities in February 2022.

The African Languages Project is an important project that we wish to run for a number of years, as the 4 Universities in KwaZulu-Natal. UKZN has made some great progress but we need to assist the other institutions as well, in the implementation of language policies and the promotion of isiZulu in academic endeavours.

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