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University Language Planning and Development Office

First Quarterly Report: 2016

**INSPIRING GREATNESS**



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The year stated in earnest with two strategic meetings with UKZN's Killie Campbell, and the PanSALB national office in Pretoria. The two meetings were vitally important in the development of both the isiZulu National Corpus (INC) and terminology development at UKZN. Thus the twin program of corpus building and multidisciplinary terminology development is now at an advanced stage. The ULPDO is developing appropriate platforms to make both the INC and the isiZulu multidisciplinary terminology available as electronic resources. Plans are underway to launch these crucial resources as open source resources for the benefit of both the academy and the general public.

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## 1. Introduction

The ULPDO pursues vigorously the development of isiZulu terminology across a variety of disciplines, and the development of isiZulu National Corpus (INC). One of the most important principles in terminology development is to observe statutory and mandatory processes. ULPDO has designed a unique terminology development process with five important stages that incorporate the statutory processes facilitated by PanSALB. The five stages are terminology harvesting, terminology description and translation, terminology consultation, terminology verification, and terminology authentication and standardization. These processes can be monitored through an electronic platform developed by ULB, called the terminology development platform. Thus far the ULPDO has authenticated and standardized 5408 terms in 7 different scientific disciplines. It is against this backdrop that the ULPDO is developing a Terminology Bank and a Mobile Lexical Database to store the authenticated terms as open source electronic resources. This resource will be launched during the course of this year.

The INC reached the 10 million milestone at the end of 2015. The building of the INC will continue robustly during the course of the year. ULPDO is planning to launch the INC during the course of the year together with the Terminology Bank, as an open source electronic resource, which will be useful for academic research and for the posterity. IsiZulu as a language will be a proud resident in the digital world. ULPDO is also planning to launch other Human Language Technologies that are an offshoot of the corpus initiative.

One of the foremost aims of the University language policy (revised in 2014) is to “[...] preserve and promote respect for, and proficiency in, the languages referred to in the Constitution, and other languages, including the heritage languages, that facilitate potentially valuable cultural, scientific and economic ties [...]”. Multilingualism is thus the hallmark of the University language policy. This is vitally important for the University since its remit is to embrace and foster social cohesion within the University community. It is in this light that ULPDO will be officially launching the *Bua le nna* ‘Let’s Talk’ program. The program has been running for two years and is aimed at teaching conversational Sesotho to non-Sesotho speaking students at UKZN student residences.

**Langa Khumalo**  
**Director: ULPDO**

## 1. Psychology Terminology Consultative Workshop

The ULPDO successfully hosted the Psychology terminology consultative workshop which was held on the February 2016 at Emakhosini Botique.



In the picture are the collaborators for this workshop, Professor A. M. Maphumulo, Professor O. T. Mxumalo, Dr N. Sibiyi Dr B Zungu, Mr. Z. Xala, Dr G. Mazibuko, Dr L. Makhubu, Dr S. Ntuli, Mr B. Nxumalo, Mr. S. W. Sibeko, Mr S. Ndlovu, Mrs. M. Ngongoma, Ms. J. Msibi, , Mr B. Mdluli, The subject specialists included: Professor S. Magwaza, Ms N Buthelezi and Dr T. Sifunda, the students included Mr M. Hlengwa and Mr M. Busane and the ULPDO staff members.

The ULDPDO and the project leader harvested psychology terminology with an intention to take the list of terms through the legislated and mandatory terminology development processes. The first stage is the consultative workshop, where terms are discussed with different stakeholders, including community members, tertiary institutions, government institutions, municipalities, media representatives and language practitioners. The psychology terminology is going to form part of the body of disciplines that have been taken through these PanSALB processes. The developed isiZulu psychology terms will contribute immensely towards the intellectualization of isiZulu. The collaborators did a commendable job and the workshop was a success. At the end of the workshop 500 terms developed, and are now ready for the verification stage.

## 3. International Mother Tongue Day

The Department of Arts and Culture hosted the International Mother Tongue Celebration Day in Greytown on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2016. The ULPDO Director, Dr Khumalo was invited as one of the main speakers at this event. His presentation was well received by those present. Present among the dignitaries was the MEC DAC Mrs N.

Sibhidla-Saphetha, the Mayor of Greytown Mr Cllr TC Ngubane, the local chief, King Zakhele Sithole. Three other ULPDO staff members also attended this event as guests. The invitation of the ULPDO Director by the office of the MEC was an indication that UKZN continues to play an important and a leading role in raising the status and role of isiZulu and other indigenous languages.

## 4. Running Projects

### 4.1. Bua Lenna project

The Bua Lenna sessions were held at Ansell May and John Bews Residence on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.



In the picture are the students who participated in this session. The ULPDO staff members (not in picture) organized and hosted the event.

The first session was reasonably well attended. The content taught included basic conversational Sesotho and was a repetition of some aspects that had been taught to the students at these residences before in the previous year. The second session was well attended by the students, which indicates that a lot of students have developed interest and have begun to see the importance of embracing indigenous languages. The Sesotho language champions are of the opinion that these sessions are improving each time and are becoming more successful and interesting, as students show keen interest in attending and participating in them. The champions themselves have also improved since they come to these sessions very prepared to take student through their thematic materials. The sessions are interactive and engaging.

## 4.2. Corpus Project

Corpus building is proceeding very well. In this quarter the corpus has grown from 10.08 million running words to just over 10.9 million. The corpus team has been targeting more productive files to increase the number of words in the corpus. Following an inspiring presentation by the ULPDO Director, Dr Khumalo at Killie Campbell Library, the office has established new relations, with the Library providing an office and equipment for the corpus team in order for the team to access the vast corpus materials that are available in the Library. Inkazimulo newspaper has also indicated that they have corpus materials that they are willing to give to ULPDO. Plans are underway to access these.

## 4.3. Reading and Writing

The office hosted the first of the four reading and writing workshops that the office has planned to convene in 2016. These workshops are a collaboration with DUT and KZN Department of Arts and Culture. This collaboration seeks to inculcate the culture of reading and writing isiZulu both within and outside the university. The objectives of the workshops are inter alia to impart knowledge about writing isiZulu short stories and novels, to create new generation of writers, and prepare people for isiZulu writing competitions. The plan is to host at least four of these workshops annually. The first workshop was hosted on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. Dr G. Mazibuko was the expert who facilitated.

## 5. KZN Stakeholder meeting.

KZN PanSALB hosted a stakeholder meeting between DAC, eThekweni Municipality, NLB, PanSALB and ULPDO on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. The ULPDO coordinator attended this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the synergistic relations between UKZN, PanSALB, DAC and eThekweni municipality and possibly reconcile the calendar events and projects of mutual interest. A number of issues were discussed including co-hosting events, combining programmes and feeding off each other. All stakeholders saw the importance of working together. The meeting was a huge success. The second meeting will be scheduled soon so as to check the progress in relation to the decisions which were taken at this meeting.

## 6. Terminology Bank and Mobile Lexical Database

The ULPDO held a meeting with the terminology bank developers, TshwaneDJe Human Language Technology CC, in Cape Town on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. The director and coordinator met with the two software developers in order to discuss the possibility of developing a UKZN isiZulu mobile dictionary. The development of the lexical database that is compatible with both mobile phone and personal computers was outsourced seeing that ICS is seized with finalizing the isiZulu Term Bank, both of which must be ready for the launch in June 2016. The TshwaneDJe developers agreed to work with UKZN on this project. The developers also further agreed to train ULPDO staff members on how to operate the mobile dictionary once completed and installed. The software development is envisaged to be completed at the end of May, with training and skills transfer taking place during the first week of June 2016.

## 7. Staff Publishing

Thus far in the New Year, the following papers have been published.

1. Keet, C.M. & **Khumalo, L.** 2016. Toward a knowledge-to-text controlled natural language of isiZulu. *Language Resources and Evaluation*. **Springer**. DOI 10.1007/s10579-016-9340-0. 1-27.
2. Byamugisha, J., Keet, C.M. & **Khumalo, L.** 2016. On generating plurals for isiZulu controlled natural language. *Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics (CICLing 2016)*. **Springer LNCS Series**. Konya, Turkey.
3. Ndaba, B., Hussein, S., Keet, C.M. & **Khumalo, L.** 2016. The effects of a Corpus on isiZulu Spellcheckers based on N-grams. *Proceedings of the IST-Africa 2016 Conference*. Durban. South Africa. (Accepted).
4. **Khumalo, L.** 2016. Disrupting Language Hegemony: Intellectualizing African Languages. In Samuel, M., Dhunpath, R., and Amin, N. *A critical response to curriculum reform in higher education: Undoing cognitive damage*. Sense Publishers. (Accepted).