UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

SUBMISSION IDENTIFIERS:

Title	**UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL LANGUAGE BOARD REPORT FOR 2013/2014**
Author and position	Professor Renuka Vithal (DVC: T&L; Chair: University Language Board) Dr Langa Khumalo(Director: ULPDO)

APPROVAL HISTORY

Structure consulted	Date	Outcome
University Language Board	25 July 2014	Supported
Senate	20 August 2014	

SUBMISSION CONTENT

Proposal
To note the third annual University Language Board Report (ULB) (2013/2014) as required by policy.
Motivation
The 2013/2014 ULB Report is the third such report to Senate in conformity with the University Language Policy and Plan, which specifies that a bilingual annual report must be presented to the University Senate. The first and second Senate Reports were respectively tabled on 09 May 2012 and 21 August 2013. This current report documents further work and progress that the ULB has made towards the implementation of the University Language Plan.
Financial implications Indicated in the report
Attachments University of KwaZulu-Natal Language Board Report For 2013/2014

University of KwaZulu-Natal Language Board Report for 2013/2014

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Introduction

South Africa is recognized as having one of the most progressive constitutions, which among other things, entrenches its linguistic diversity. It enshrines multilingualism and provides that every official language must *enjoy parity of esteem* and must be treated *equitably*. In line with the provisions enshrined in the South African constitution section 6 (subsection 2 and 4), the Language in Education Policy of 1997 and consistent with the framework as set out in the Language Policy for Higher Education of 2002 and congruent with the Use of Official Languages Act of 2012, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) identifies with the goals of South Africa's multilingual language policy and seeks to be a key player in its successful implementation. UKZN has articulated this commitment through its Language Policy and Plan, which was approved by Senate on the 2nd of August 2006.

Subsequent to the approval of the UKZN Language Policy and Plan was the establishment of the University Language Board (ULB), with a clear mandate to drive the implementation of the Language Policy and Plan and to provide the necessary resources and strategic support to both the academic and support sectors of the University. The ULB, chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), Professor Renuka Vithal, has held regular meetings setting practical targets for the implementation of the UKZN Language Policy. The ULB has evolved since its re-establishment in 2010, in line with College reorganization. Below is the current comprehensive list of the members of the ULB.

Membership of the University Language Board 2014:

Professor R Vithal (Chair)	DVC: Teaching and Learning
Dr R Dhunpath	Director: Teaching & Learning
Dr L Khumalo	Director: Language Planning & Development
Mr L Seshoka	Executive Director: Corporate Relations
Dr S Chalufu (Alternate)	Executive Director: Student Services
Mr B Poo	Support Services Sector
Professor G Kamwendo	Academic Expert
Professor A Modi	Agriculture, Engineering and Science
Dr M Matthews	Health Sciences
Ms C Engelbrecht (Alternate)	Health Sciences
Dr G Mazibuko	Humanities
Dr S L Ntuli (Alternate)	Humanities
Dr A Bengesai	Law and Management Studies

Mr K Zondi (Alternate)	Law and Management Studies
Mr M Hlengwa	PANSALB Representative (deceased, July 2014)
Mr K Mngadi	Language coordinator
Mr S Mthethwa	CSRC Representative

The ULB had four meetings in 2013, which were strategic platforms to consider and craft strategies to drive the implementation of the Language Policy and Plan across all sectors of the University. This report highlights some of the milestones the ULB achieved towards the implementation of the Language Plan.

University Language Planning and Development Office (ULPDO)

To support ULB and the implementation of the Language Policy and Plan, two posts were approved for a Director and a Language Planning Coordinator in the newly created University Language Planning and Development Office (ULPDO) in the DVC: T&L portfolio.

Appointment of the Director for Language Planning and Development

The ULB is delighted to report the appointment of Dr Langa Khumalo as the Director for Language Planning and Development since the 1st of January 2014. The Director provides strategic leadership and guidance at institutional level on matters related to the University's language policy, planning and development. Dr Khumalo has thus far had a successful engagement with various media, shaping the vision, mission and objectives of the Language Planning and Development Office, consonant with the University Language Policy and Plan. He has since held interviews with UKZN Ndabaonline, independent online (IOL) and SAfm radio to explicate the Language Policy and Plan and the ongoing terminology development and corpus building initiatives.

Appointment of the Language Planning Coordinator

The ULPDO, which saw the appointment of the Coordinator in May 2013, is evolving to be a fully functional unit in the DVC: Teaching and Learning Portfolio. ULPDO coordinates language related institutional activities, provides quality translation, interpreting and editing services to the university community, while facilitating and

overseeing the adherence to the statutory provisions in the development of technical terminology in isiZulu for all disciplines in the four university colleges.

Appointments of Language experts

In August 2013 the ULPDO appointed a highly qualified language practitioner who is responsible for all translation and interpretation services offered by the office across the university. The appointment is supported by funding from the Department of Higher Education and Training's Teaching and Development Grant (DHET's TDG) and the DVC: Teaching and Learning portfolio. The ULPDO has recently completed the appointment of a language researcher, who will commence his duties on the 1st of August 2014. The language researcher's appointment is also supported by DHET's TDG.

Implementing the Language Policy and Plan

IsiZulu Language Module

ULB reported last year that the UKZN Senate made a significant pronouncement on the 15th of May 2013, that it will be a requirement for all students registering for the first time at the University to take up a mandatory isiZulu language module before they graduate from the institution, starting from January 2014. This major curriculum transformation was led by the ULB and consequentially received widespread comment, generating media Advertising Value Equivalents (AVE) of R22 422 269 for the period 16 May to 6 June 2013.

Commenting on the introduction of isiZulu language module, Pierre De Vos, a Constitutional Law expert at the University of Cape Town's Law Faculty states in his opinion piece that:

> 'By officially requiring first year students to study a neglected indigenous language, a University would signal its willingness to engage in a practical manner with the cultural diversity of its surroundings. The move would help to promote an awareness of multilingualism among those South Africans who go through life only speaking English. It would also promote understanding and respect for diverse cultures, because language and culture is so closely connected.' (DAILY Maverick, 18 May 2013)

The successful roll out of the mandatory isiZulu language module is evidence of tangible progress in the implementation of the Language Policy and Plan. A total of 1 287 students have registered for isiZulu modules for the first semester of 2014.

This positive media attention and the general approbation of the undergraduate isiZulu module requirement resulted in the active interest from staff in the University to learn isiZulu. In response UKZN Extended Learning (UEL) offered 7 isiZulu Basic short courses on both Howard College and PMB campuses in 2013, which were attended by 187 UKZN staff. This included one course specifically run for members of the executive and leadership of the University. Further short course offerings for 2014 are being taught.

Corpus Building and Terminology Development

September 2013 saw the hosting of a major isiZulu corpus workshop at the University, which was led by a leading British corpus linguist. The two-day corpus workshop brought together stakeholders from higher education institutions, government, PanSALB and Language activists, who collectively endorsed UKZN as the site for national isiZulu corpus development. Thus ULPDO is tasked with concluding the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with PanSALB, a legal instrument that will formalize corpus development at UKZN.

The ULPDO is thus developing two important resources: the terminology database, which is referred to as isiZulu Term Bank; and the Corpus, which is referred as the isiZulu National Corpus. Both will be supported by and hosted through systems supported by the University's Information and Communication Systems (ICS). The former involves a complex process of terminology creation, verification and standardization with linguists, subject specialists and the statutory bodies such as the Pan-South African Languages Board (PanSALB) and the National Language Board (NLB), UMZUKAZWE. The latter involves developing capacity and storage of a complex body of materials to be accessed electronically for the development of human language technologies (HLTs) and for posterity.

The ULDPO has operationalized the implementation of the language policy by guiding the terminology development processes through these mandatory statutory processes. In the current reporting period, ULPDO successfully hosted three terminology development workshops and oversaw the finalization and approval of a range of isiZulu technical terminology and signage terms by the NLB. A total of five hundred and forty nine terms were approved by and handed over to the University for use as official Nursing terminology.

Consultative, Verification, Standardization & Authentication Statistics

Table 1.

Unit/School	No. of Terms Developed	No. of Terms Verified	No. of Terms Standardized	No. of Terms Remaining	RAG
Corporate Relations (Signage)	40	40	40	0	🟩
Corporate Relations (General)	192	86	0	106	🟧
Law	260	0	0	260	
Nursing	549	549	549	0	🟩
Totals/ Overall	**1041**	**675**	**589**	**366**	🟧

The Chair of the ULB is spearheading efforts to have the standardized and authenticated terminology published as a dictionary or glossary of Nursing terminology for use in teaching and learning and in nursing practice in general. To this end, UKZN Press is working in partnership with the ULPDO in an effort to create a platform for the dissemination of authenticated terminology through the publication of serialized glossaries or dictionaries. To date UKZN Press has partnered ULB in its effort to promote writing in isiZulu through a writing competition that culminated in the publication of *Amagalelo*, a book that was launched on the 19th of March 2013.

ULPDO Services

The ULPDO's mandate is to embrace and foster functional bilingualism at the University through the promotion of equitable use of the English language and isiZulu as provided for in the University Language Policy (2006). In the period under review the ULPDO

successfully initiated and established working relationships with both internal and external stakeholders. Internally, the stakeholders include schools and colleges and the support services. Externally, they include statutory bodies mentioned above and other prominent independent language specialists.

The office also efficiently offered translation, interpreting and editing services to the entire university community on request. The translations include:

- The University Charter
- Admission Form
- Employee Engagement Survey
- Transformation Leaflet
- Cashless Electronic Advert
- College of Engineering Health and Safety Brochure
- Indaba-Online articles
- School of Nursing's teaching video scripts
- Switchboard scripts
- Vice Chancellor's Communique
- University Marketing leaflet

Interpreting services were also rendered for the following functions:

- The Dr J L Dube Memorial Lecture
- The African Languages Colloquium

Funded Projects

The ULPDO disbursed funding to the projects listed below to the tune of R1, 021, 880. The funded projects are from three different colleges, namely the college of Humanities, Health Sciences and Agriculture, Engineering and Science (AES). The projects are at the center of the broad initiative to implement the language policy and plan. The office has received progress reports from the project leaders indicating that there is satisfactory progress in the successful implementation of these initiatives.

ULPDO Funded Projects

Table 2.

| Year	Surname	Faculty	Title of the project
2013	Ms N. Buthelezi	Humanities	Development of discipline specific terminology for professional psychologists
2013	Professor Christiansen	Humanities	Games for isiZulu Teaching
2013	Professor F. Frescura	Humanities	Illustrated dictionary of Southern African Architectural Terms
2013	Professor A. Modi	AES	Various projects involving isiZulu tutorials. Introducing Supplemental instruction in isiZulu AES. Translation of College of AES handbook into isiZulu
2013	Dr M. Keet	AES	COMMUTERM
2013	Dr M. Mathews	Health Sciences	Mini video productions

ULPDO's activities are funded from the DHET's TDG and the DVC: T&L Main fund. The ULPDO is seeking alternative funding for its isiZulu Digitization Project.

Terminology Development Platform

In the 2012/2013 report it was stated that the isiZulu Terminology Development Platform project received R300 000 in order to create an online platform for isiZulu terminology development. The project entailed the development of online solution to house an ever growing database of IsiZulu and English resources in the form of terminology, images, sound and video clips. In addition to providing bi-directional English and IsiZulu phrase translation for general communications, it also boasts discipline specific terminology and phrases created by academics in their specific disciplines in conjunction with language experts. The resulting media files reside in the institutional repository and are accessed via various applications connecting to the database. These include the web and mobile interfaces. Specific applications, which have been developed or are in development as part of this project includes, isiZulu-English Terminology Application (IETA) and the Mobi Site for smart phone access.

Interfaces for the Two Platforms

The Terminology Development Platform
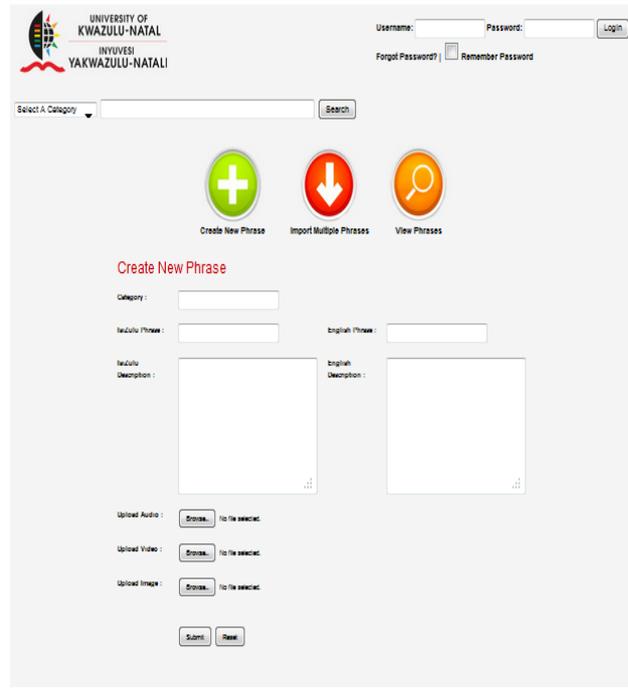
The Mobi Site – For Smart Phone Access

Computer literacy and the lack of computer ownership pose a serious problem to the access of online resources. However, with the growing popularity of smart phones, it makes delivering online resources to the masses more attainable. UKZN identified this as a priority and has developed a mobile version of the website which can be accessed from most smartphones.

Looking Ahead

The ULPDO has proposed an isiZulu archive and documentation project which will culminate in the establishment of an isiZulu Digital Library. Language documentation is a vital linguistic process in the raising or revitalization of a language. Documentation is thus a process that seeks to avail a comprehensive record of the linguistic practices that are emblematic of a given language. It further provides a firmer foundational background for linguistic (and other) analyses in that it creates a citable set of data in

the language on which scientific research about the salient features of the language or the geo-socio-political history of the speakers of the language can be based.

This archive and documentation project will thus collect, document and preserve all the materials that have been developed and published in isiZulu during the course of its 177 years of writing. This collection is going to be unique in that it will also include rare materials that have not been published and hence not readily available in the public (academic) discourse. The isiZulu language documentation project will create a thorough record for raising and revitalizing the status and role of isiZulu and for posterity.

Conclusion

The University continues to make significant inroads in the promotion of isiZulu. The establishment of the ULB, with a clear mandate to drive the implementation of the Language Policy and Plan and to provide the necessary resources and support to both the academic and support sectors, has seen the University achieve a lot of milestones, some of which have been highlighted in this report. A fully functioning ULPDO has provided the necessary impetus and expertise required for the University to effectively implement the Language Policy and Plan.