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**University Language Planning and Development Office
Fourth Quarterly Report: 2016**

INSPIRING GREATNESS



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The University of KwaZulu-Natal has been doing extensive work in the advancement of isiZulu, which culminated in the momentous launch in November 2016 of the two books *Inhlamvu Yelanga* and a bilingual (English-IsiZulu) glossary of architecture with illustrations (both published by UKZN Press), and the launch of isiZulu human language technologies (HLTs). The HLTs include an isiZulu spell checker, an isiZulu Lexicon, a Mobile Application that is iPhone and Android Compatible, an isiZulu National Corpus (INC) and an isiZulu Term Bank. These technologies are all open source.

Fourth Quarterly Report September – December 2016

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1. Introduction

This quarter was one of the most engaging in the University of Language Planning and Development Office's calendar. In our terminology development strand, we invited a leading expert in the theory of terminology with vast expertise in International Organization of Standards (ISO standards) particularly in the area of terminology development. Professor Bassey Antia shared his wealth of knowledge at a workshop that was attended by linguistics, lexicographers, terminologists, language practitioners and other experts from the discipline of criminology and health sciences. The two-day workshop was very informative, and we were satisfied that our language programme was in line with the international standards.

The office also successfully organized a launch event of its products, which was attended by both local and international dignitaries. The launch of two books and four human language technologies (HLTs) was a momentous event in the Office's very short history. The historical launch was a culmination of the extensive work that the University of KwaZulu-Natal has been doing in the advancement of isiZulu since the enunciation of the language policy and plan in 2006 (which was revised in 2014). The two books *Inhlamvu Yelanga* and a bilingual (English-isiZulu) glossary of architecture with illustrations were both published through a successful collaboration with the UKZN Press. The isiZulu HLTs that we launched include isiZulu spell checker, an isiZulu Lexicon, a Mobile Application that is iPhone and Android Compatible, an isiZulu National Corpus (INC) and an isiZulu Term Bank. These technologies are all open source.

The Office's pursuit of multilingualism in order to foster social cohesion found expression in the successful hosting of two Bua Lenna sessions at the student residences, and a workshop on South African Sign Language for the police department in collaboration with the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) Provincial Office. It is in this sense that the Language Programme at UKZN is proceeding well.

Dr Langa Khumalo
Director: ULPDO

2. Terminology Development Workshop

ULPDO hosted the terminology development workshop on the 1-2 September 2016 at UNITE Building, Howard College Campus.



In the picture are the participants in this session, including the ULPDO staff members and ULPDO stakeholders.

The objective of this workshop was *inter alia* to give linguists, terminologists and language researchers the opportunity to learn more about principles of terminology harvesting as contained in the International Organization of Standards (ISO standards). Different stakeholders from various institutions including, DUT, Media houses (IsiZulu Newspapers, Ukhozi FM), KZN DAC, PanSALB and eThekweni Municipality attended the workshop. An internationally reputable scholar in terminology theory, Professor Bassey Antia from the University of the Western Cape, was the facilitator of this workshop. He did an amazing job. The workshop was a success and participants indicated at the end that they benefited a lot from it and they suggested that the office regularly hosts the workshops of this nature. The participants also indicated that the facilitator demonstrated extraordinary expertise in this area.

3. Running Projects

3.1. Bua Le Nna Sessions

The Bua Le Nna sessions were held at Ansell May and John Bews Residence on the 4th of November 2016 and the 18th of November 2016.



In the picture are UKZN students, who participated in this session including the ULPDO staff members.

The office hosted the last sessions of the year in November. These sessions were unique in that the students were given an opportunity to showcase what they had learnt during the course of the year. This also gave the office an opportunity to reflect on the intricacies of the project. It was very interesting to see the impact of the project since students were easily conversing in the Sesotho language. This project is important in creating both linguistic and cultural awareness among the university students. At the end of these sessions, evaluation forms were distributed to participants in order to gather more information about how the project was implemented and how it could be improved. It is important to note that the promotion of the multilingualism project is making visible footprints within UKZN's linguistic community.

4. KZN Stakeholder Events.

4.1. Sign Language training workshop

The ULPDO in collaboration with PanSALB successfully hosted the sign language training workshop on the 14 of September 2016 at CR Swart Police Station.



In the picture are some of the participants during the workshop, including PanSALB and ULPDO staff members.

The purpose of the workshop was to create awareness on the importance of the sign language and how people can interact with the deaf community. The event was pitched as a celebration of South African Sign Language as a basic human right for the Deaf Community as advocated in the South African Constitution, and also to assist the police services department to understand basics on the sign language so that they can be able to communicate with deaf people easily, to bring to the fore the issues that confront the Deaf Community amongst us, and to make government departments also see the importance of learning the SA sign language. There is no doubt that this

exercise will assist both the police and the deaf community to easily understand each other particularly on crime related matters.

The workshop was a success and the police officers indicated that they benefited a lot and they would appreciate if ULPDO and PanSALB would organize more of these workshops in 2017.

5. The Development of Human Language Technologies

The University Language Planning and Development Office at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in November launched two books and human language technologies. The technologies, which aim to help isiZulu students and end-users, are part of the University's commitment to develop isiZulu as an academic language.

The technologies launched include the following:

5.1 IsiZulu National Corpus (The INC):

The INC is one of the biggest African language corpora in the world, with just over 21 Million running words that are reflective of the language. With this resource anyone around the world has access to study isiZulu as a language in all its complexities. The INC is an open source resource.

The URL for the INC is: <https://iznc.ukzn.ac.za/>

5.2 IsiZulu Term Bank;

The isiZulu Term Bank is a resource that was developed in order to provide access to isiZulu terminology which has been developed for a variety of disciplines such as anatomy, architecture, accounting, biodiversity, economics, law, nursing, physics etc. The resource is a work-in-progress with other disciplines set to be added. The isiZulu term bank is available as an open source resource on <https://ukzntermbank.ukzn.ac.za>.

5.3 IsiZulu Spellchecker;

The spellchecker is a useful resource in language editing. Using the isiZulu national corpus as a basis for training the spellchecker, this tool will complement the university effort in teaching the isiZulu modules and assist book and newspaper editors in editing their texts written in isiZulu. The spellchecker boasts a 90 % recognition rate, and is also an open resource downloadable from the ULPDO website <http://ulpdo.ukzn.ac.za>.

5.4 Zulu Lexicon Application: Mobile-Compatible (Android iPhone).

This is a mobile application of the isiZulu Term Bank. It is available free, and its development is to enhance end-user access to various multidisciplinary terminology. ULPDO has introduced the notion of ANYTIME ACCESS so that students and other general users can access the terms anytime they need to. ULPDO has thus exploited technology to develop improved end-user access through the development of this mobile compatible application. This application is called the Zulu Lexicon App, which is short for *isiZulu Lexicon*. It affords students and other users anytime access to all the authenticated (multidisciplinary) terminology, with search functions in both English and isiZulu.

In addition, the following two isiZulu publications (both published by the UKZN Press) were launched as part of the major effort to cultivate isiZulu as an academic language:

5.5 A short stories volume *Inhlamvu Yelanga* (UKZN Press)

The short stories anthology is a compilation of the literary genius of both the budding and experienced writers in isiZulu. It is a product of a literature competition initiated by the University Language Board and run by ULPDO, which seeks to promote the use of isiZulu writing through reflecting on both the historical and contemporary issues in the ever evolving culture of the Zulu people. The ULPDO received about 110 entries from isiZulu authors across the country. An adjudication team made up of academics, authors and

prominent media personalities evaluated the entries in order to come up with the best short stories worthy of publishing. The twenty stories published in this anthology thus reflect on the creative experiences of the Zulu people.

5.6 An English-isiZulu Architecture Glossary with Illustrations.

The ULPDO is also developing bilingual glossaries in various specialized disciplines. These bilingual glossaries are going to be serialized. The first publication in a series is a bilingual (English-isiZulu) glossary of architecture with illustration. The illustrations are a vital component of the discipline. With this book now available the discipline of architecture can now be taught in isiZulu. The University Language Planning and Development Office is working hard to capacitate isiZulu as a language of teaching and learning through the provision of such enablers.

6. The 10 November 2016 Launch (Excerpts and Pictures)

The University Language Planning and Development Office hosted a momentous occasion, which saw the launch of isiZulu Human Language Technologies and two books, at the Hilton Hotel, in Durban.

The Launch was officially opened by the University Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld. In his opening remarks the Vice Chancellor underscored the importance of language, and the important task involved in the preservation of all human languages.



In the picture is the UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, who officially opening the Launch.

The Vice-Chancellor further emphasized among other things the University's commitment in the development and intellectualization of isiZulu through a careful implementation of the language policy and Plan.

Simultaneous interpreting and sign language services were provided to ensure that everyone present in this event properly understood the messages of all speeches.

The launch of *Inhlamvu Yelanga*, a culmination of a literature competition initiated by the University Language Board and organized and hosted by the Office, involved the presentation of the winners of the literature competition, as can be seen in the picture below.



In the picture are the book authors after receiving their token of appreciation from Prof R Vithal (DVC Teaching & Learning and ULB Chair) and Prof C. Portgieter (DVC Humanities).

The authors of the book received a token of appreciation. The 20 authors, who individually contributed a winning chapter to the book titled *Inhlamvu Yelanga*, received a prize money and a copy of the book. A trophy and laptop were each given to the top three winners, pictured below with the University Chancellor, Dr Zweli Mkhize. All of this was received with great appreciation by authors.



In the picture are the top three authors receiving their special token of appreciation with Dr. Zwelini Mkhize

The two keynote speakers were Dr Zweli Mkhize, who is the University Chancellor, and Professor Ramesh Krishnamurthy, who is a leading expert in Corpus Linguistics from Ashton University in the United Kingdom. Dr Mkhize delivered his keynote address on the intellectualization of African languages in higher education. He underscored the need for use of African languages as enablers in the teaching and learning in schools and in the knowledge economy. He commended UKZN for the progress it has made in the development of isiZulu.



In the picture is Dr. Zwelini Mkhize delivering his keynote address.

International expert, Professor Ramesh Krishnamurthy from Ashton University in the United Kingdom emphasized the role of corpora in developing human languages and the necessary human language technologies. He spoke of language and discourse as a human activity that is best mirrored in corpora, and how the study of corpora permeates through all scientific disciplines. Thus the development of an isiZulu National Corpus is an important milestone.



In the picture is Prof Ramesh Krishnamurthy delivering his keynote address.

The CEO of the Pan South African Language Board, Dr M Monareng (in the picture below) was one of the distinguished guests, who spoke on the importance of developing African languages in South Africa.

