

language**matters**@UKZN

University Language Planning and Development Office
Fourth Quarterly Report: 2018

INSPIRING GREATNESS



Langa Khumalo, PhD Linguistics.
Director: Language Planning and Development Office

The highlight of the last quarter was, without doubt, the two workshops that involved our two key stakeholders. We had a training workshop that we hosted for SABC's Ukhozi fm staff members, and an editing workshop that we jointly hosted with KZN's Department of Arts & Culture in celebrating the International Translation Day. Both workshops were a tremendous success and cemented a growing synergistic relationship between UKZN and the two strategic institutions. The creation of an isiZulu Commission by the African Union in December 2018 is an important milestone in the development of the language as a continental language of trade and commerce. The Director of ULPDO was appointed the Chair of the AU isiZulu Commission, and other members of the Commission include Prof N Mkhize (DVC Humanities) and Prof N Hlongwa (Dean & Head of the School of Arts).

**Fourth Quarterly Report
October-December 2018.**

Contents

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Terminology Development	5
2.1. Mathematics Terminology Consultative Workshop	5
3. Ukhozi FM training Workshop	6
4. Editing Training workshop.....	8
5. Curriculum Transformation Workshop.....	9
6. Running Projects.....	9
6.1. Bua Le Nna Sessions.....	9
7. ULPDO HLT's.....	10
7.1. Corpus Collection and cleaning	10
7.2 Term Bank, Spellchecker and Zululex	11
8. Workshops and Conference attendance	12
8.1 Director's conference and workshops attendance.....	12

1. Introduction

The University Language Planning and Development Office is making steady progress towards the implementation of its language program as approved by the University Language Board. Terminology development is one of the key aspect of the language program at UKZN. The ULPDO continues to cultivate a network of discipline experts who are keen to develop disciplinary terminology in both English and isiZulu in order to foster and embrace bilingualism in teaching and learning at UKZN. In the period under review, the ULPDO managed to successfully take the mathematics terminology to the consultative workshop. The commitment by Dr Mhlongo and his team, language experts and students who participated at the consultative workshop is commendable.

The ULPDO has also managed to partner with Dr Andrew-John Bethke, of the Music discipline at Howard College campus at UKZN, to initiate the creation of isiZulu terminology for the discipline. Dr Bethke and his team are currently harvesting terminology that will go through the terminology development processes. This is again an exciting development and ULPDO looks forward to another successful partnership.

In the period under review we had a training workshop that we hosted for SABC's Ukhozi fm staff members, and an editing workshop that we jointly hosted with KZN's Department of Arts & Culture in celebrating the International Translation Day. Both workshops were a tremendous success and cemented a growing synergistic relationship between UKZN and the two strategic institutions. The creation of an IsiZulu Commission by the African Union in December 2018 is an important milestone in the development of the language as a continental language of trade and commerce. The Director of ULPDO was appointed the Chair of the AU isiZulu Commission, and other members of the Commission include *inter alia* Prof N Mkhize (DVC Humanities) and Prof N Hlongwa (Dean & Head of the School of Arts).

Professor Langa Khumalo
Director: ULPDO

2. Terminology Development

2.1. Mathematics Terminology Consultative Workshop

The ULPDO hosted the Mathematics Terminology Consultative Workshop on the 19th – 21st of November 2018 at Coastlands on The Ridge Hotel.



File photo. The collaborators for this workshop included, Prof A. M Maphumulo, Dr. G Mazibuko, Dr N Sibiyi, Dr B Zungu, Dr S Ntuli, Dr L Makhubu, Mr. Z. Xala, Mr B Nxumalo, Mr. SW Sibeko, Mrs. M Ngongoma, Ms N Madonsela, Ms N Mkhonto and S Gumede, the subject specialists included; Dr M Mhlongo, the Students, Ms S Ntombela, Ms N Mnyandu, Ms S Radebe, Ms M Hlatshwayo, Mr N Mbuyazi, Ms T Mhlongo, Ms P Shezi, and the ULPDO staff members.

It is notable that more disciplines are coming forward in partnership with the ULPDO in an effort to develop specialized disciplinary terminology in isiZulu. This is in consonant with the University's objective to provide knowledge access in both English and isiZulu. Terminology development is one of the key drivers in providing access to complex epistemology in a language that the vast majority of students at UKZN are most familiar with. The ULPDO was pleased to initiate the development of isiZulu mathematics terms together with subject specialists. The inclusion of mathematics as a discipline in terminology development is an important feat, not least because mathematics is at the centre of all natural sciences.

A total of 501 terms were workshopped and are now ready for the verification stage.

3. Ukhozi FM training Workshop

The ULPDO hosted Ukhozi FM training Workshop on the 14th of November 2018 at UNITE Building, Howard College campus.



In the picture are Ukhozi FM Station Manager, Mr B Mpanza. Also in the picture are Ukhozi fm staff members, Language Experts and ULPDO staff members.

This was the second workshop that the two institutions have collaborated to host with the mutual interest to advance the (appropriate) use of isiZulu in all spheres of life.

Through such mutually beneficial workshops, ULPDO is able to maintain the established synergistic relations that obtain between UKZN and Ukhozi FM. Such workshops provide an opportunity for ULPDO to bring in language experts to train Ukhozi FM employees on the proper utilization of standard isiZulu while also providing an opportunity for ULPDO to introduce to the newsreaders,

broadcasters and reporters new and varied specialized disciplinary terminology that we have developed, so that these terms can gain currency in use on air. This becomes one of the excellent means through which we can disseminate the specialized terminology to the isiZulu speaking public.

This year's training workshop was facilitated by two renowned linguists, Mr Khenani Makhoba and Dr Mpumelelo Mbatha. The two linguists have played a significant role in the development of isiZulu. They facilitated the workshop on the following important topics.

- Agreement in sentence construction
- Formal and informal language use and neologism in isiZulu
- Anglicizing isiZulu
- Idiomatic expression(s) vs commonly used isiZulu language on daily basis
- The Nguniness of isiZulu. How far do we go with this aspect?
- Dialectal/ Regional isiZulu
- Plurality vs non-plurality of certain isiZulu words
- The influence of politics/ democracy and other forces on the spoken isiZulu

The presentations provoked interesting and robust debates and discussions. A lot of insights on the appropriate use of language in various speech contexts were shared. The workshop was a tremendous success and Ukhozi employees committed to, and are now using the standardized specialized terms that were shared at the workshop.

The workshop evaluations revealed that an overwhelming number of participants suggest that ULPDO and Ukhozi fm should continue to host such training workshops for the mutual benefit of both institutions, i.e. UKZN and SABC .

4. Editing Training workshop



Dr E. Mkhathshwa (UKZN) far left, was one of the facilitators. Also in the picture are experienced and novice language practitioners, KZN DAC staff and ULPDO staff members who attended the workshop.

The ULPDO hosted the Editing Training Workshop on the 25th and the 26th of October 2018 at UNITE Building, Howard College Campus. The workshop was hosted in collaboration with KZN Department of Arts & Culture as part of celebrating the International Translation Day. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To explore the importance of editing
- To explicate the dynamics, processes, and tools of editing
- To flesh out the role and function(s) of the editor

Two renowned scholars in editing, Dr E Mkhathshwa and Dr P Dlamini, facilitated the workshop. The two scholars thoroughly dealt with all the aspects of editing. They covered everything as envisaged by the workshop. The workshop covered the meaning and purpose of editing, related terminologies, types of editing and types of text, levels, stages and tools of editing as well as the functions and characteristics of an editor.

In the end, the workshop was a tremendous success. The participants suggested that the office should continue to host such informative workshops.

5. Curriculum Transformation Workshop

The ULPDO in collaboration with the College of Humanities, through the College Dean of Teaching & Learning, hosted the Curriculum Transformation Workshop on the 13th of November 2018 at UNITE Building, Howard College campus. The director of ULPDO Prof L. Khumalo delivered two presentations on the role of indigenous languages in the curriculum transformation project and on the work done by the ULPDO towards the implementation of the UKZN language policy and plan. These two presentations were well received by the audience and formed the basis for engagement during the entire programme of the workshop. The participants discussed challenges in implementing the UKZN Language Policy and Plan as well as possible strategies that can be employed to overcome such challenges.

The workshop participants drawn from various Schools in the College of Humanities shared progressive ideas on how to integrate the language discourse within the curriculum transformation programme so that it could speak to the developmental goals and direction of the institution. The workshop was a huge success. In the end participants suggested that the language issue should be a standing item in the School Manco and Board meetings.

6. Running Projects

6.1. Bua Le Nna Sessions

The ULPDO successfully held four Bua Le Nna sessions in the period October to December 2018.



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

The project has been proceeding very well since the beginning of the year and students continue to embrace it. The sessions were held as planned during the period under review. As the office indicated in 2017, it is indeed without any hesitations that ULPDO prides itself with the gains of this project because students have acquired conversational skills in Sesotho which is the primary objective of the project. This boards well for the imperative to achieve social cohesion and respect for other languages and cultures at UKZN. The levels of attendance and participation indicates that there is a steady increase in the interest of students in this project. The year 2018 ended with an indication and hope that more students will participate in this project in 2019.

7. ULPDO HLT's

7.1. Corpus Collection and cleaning

As mentioned in the previous reports, the office has taken a deliberate decision to only focus on cleaning both spoken and written corpus this year (2018). This involves aligning corpus files with reference files and finding a system of storing these in a reusable format for easy of data extraction. There has been

challenges in this exercise, which has necessitated the creation of a Corpus Team that meets weekly, every Wednesday to find solutions to these.

This process has been coupled with the parallel corpus collection, which focuses on building a bilingual corpus of English-isiZulu for purposes of machine learning and ultimately automated translations. In the period under review 180 parallel corpus files have been processed.

7.2 Term Bank, Spellchecker and Zululex

The office is engaged in continuous monitoring and evaluation of the use of technologies that were launch in November 2016. The records are indicating that people are indeed using them and their usage is gradually increasing every day. So far, 10622 people have visited the terminology bank.

As indicated in the previous quarterly report, the university wide campaigns have increased the number of stakeholders who are downloading the Zulu Lexicon Mobile Application and the IsiZulu spell checker for their use. Over 1500 people have downloaded the Zulu Lexicon application during these campaigns. This is one evidence that UKZN is becoming the center of isiZulu development and intellectualization.

Figure 1.

People accessing the Term Bank

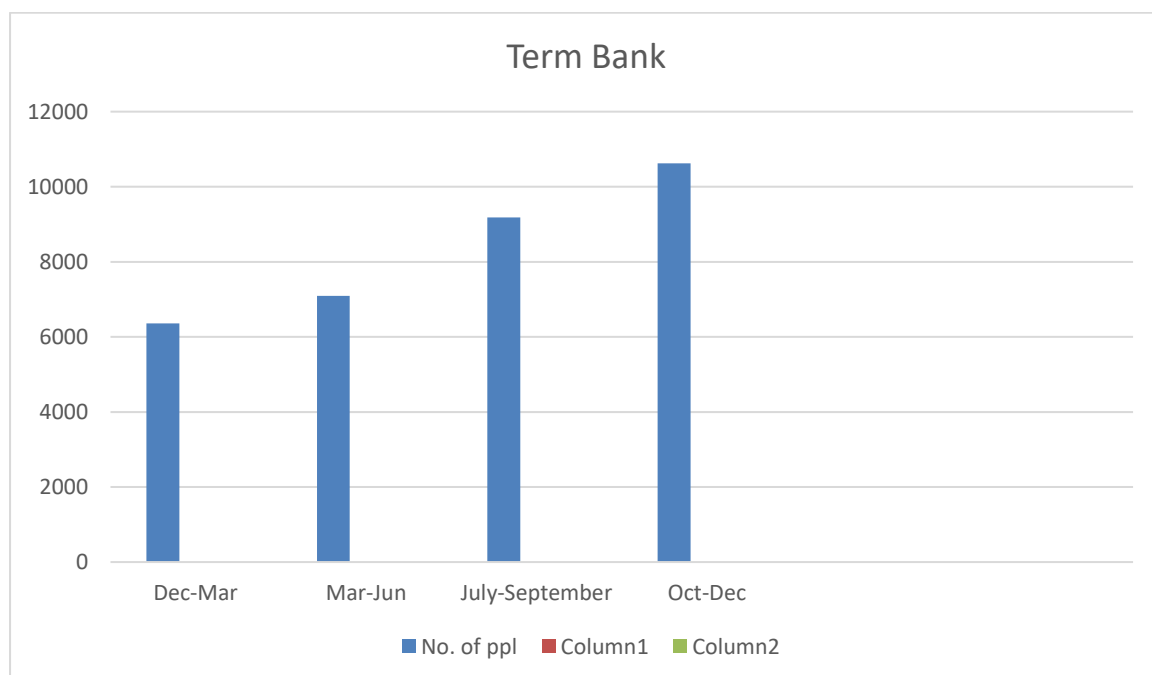


Figure 1 shows that in the first quarter of this year the visitors were at 6358 and this number grew in the period from March-June 2018 to 7690 visitors. This is an impressive uptake of the technology. The third quarter saw the numbers growing exponentially to 9179 visitors. It was further boosted by the implementation of the ULPDO language awareness campaign programme that took place at Edgewood and PMB Campuses respectively, and saw the number that accessed the term bank grow to 10622 in the last quarter (October-December) of 2018. The office expects that this tool will contribute immensely in the intellectualization of isiZulu.

8. Workshops and Conference attendance

8.1 Director's conference and workshops attendance

The Director of ULPDO was invited by the African Union (AU) to attend a workshop organized by its Secretariat, the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), on 21-22 December 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. One of the goals of the AU, enabled through its Secretariat ACALAN, is to develop and promote the use of African languages as continental languages. To this end ACALAN has established Vehicular Cross-border Language (VCBL) Commissions to empower the languages for use as language of the AU.

IsiZulu was identified by the AU as a mega language because of the number of its speakers, South Africa's legislative framework on language, and the progress and development of the language. As a result of its status as a mega language it was accorded a Commission of its own. The IsiZulu Commission (together with the Sango and Arabic Commissions) was officially launched in Kigali, Rwanda on 21-22 December 2018.

It is notable that the IsiZulu Commission is mostly made up of UKZN staff members albeit with members from other universities, notably Wits University and UNISA in Gauteng, and Sol Plaatje University in Northern Cape. The members of the AU IsiZulu Commission are Prof L Khumalo (Commission Coordinator/Chair, UKZN), Prof N. Mkhize (UKZN, DVC Humanities) Prof N Hlongwa (UKZN, Dean & HoS), Professor M.N. Ngcobo (UNISA), Dr B Zungu (Commission Secretary, Wits University), Dr J. Sukumane (UNISA) Dr L Makhubu-Badenhorst (UKZN), Dr G Mazibuko (UKZN), Dr N Nzuza (UKZN), Dr P Dlamini (UKZN), Dr T Hlongwa (UKZN), Dr N Ngcobo (UKZN), Ms T Zungu (UKZN), Ms N Mazibuko-Ngidi (Sol Plaatje), Mr S Dlamini (UKZN), Mr M Ngidi (UKZN), Mr N Mhlongo (UKZN).