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University Language Planning and Development Office
Third Quarterly Report: 2020

INSPIRING GREATNESS



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Dr Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst is the Acting Director of the Language Planning and Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She recently served as the Head of African Languages, Linguistics & Development Modules as a Senior Lecturer. She lectured translation and interpreting studies, semantics and research methodology. She is currently the chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal South African Translators' Institute Chapter (SATI), the deputy chairperson of the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC); a board member of the Pan South African Language Board and a commissioner for the isiZulu Commission of the ACALAN in the African Union. Prior joining the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Dr Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst was the Head of the Department: Media, Language & Communication, a Senior Lecturer and the Programme Co-ordinator: for the Translation and Interpreting Practice programme at the Durban University of Technology. She holds a BPaed, BA (Hons) degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, an MA degree from Stellenbosch University and A DTech: Language Practice degree from DUT. She is an accredited member of SATI. Her research focuses on various aspects of language including teacher education and on providing interpreting services in KwaZulu-Natal. She presented papers locally and internationally in the USA, UK, Australia and various parts of Europe. She is also interested in translation, terminology development as well as South African Sign Language (SASL) and its development and has presented papers in these fields. She is involved in IMIA, SATI, Interpreters Chapter, IATIS. For two terms in succession, she held the position of the Chairperson of the KZN Provincial Language Committee (KZN PLC), which is the substructure of PanSALB. She worked on the language policy for DUT. She lectured in Communication, Applied First Language, isiZulu, Translation, Interpreting, and Research Methodology in the department. She lectured various aspects of linguistics at UKZN. She supervises students' research at BTech, Hons, MA and PhD levels.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the third quarter the ULPDO hosted the first International Translation Day together with the Pan South African Language Board. The details of the celebration are provided below in this report.

Another important event calendar in this quarter is the International Translation Day which annually celebrated on the 16th of October. This year the event was hosted in the Free State province and UKZN was The ULPDO was invited to do a presentation and provide a message of support.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented various challenges but the, nevertheless, the ULPDO managed to deliver on its mandate. A huge challenge is not being able to host terminology development workshops. However, it is hoped that a dry run will be piloted early in 2021. Despite all the challenges associated with lockdown during the pandemic, there were terms that were developed from engineering using the internal university staff members.

There is a memorandum of agreement with the Mbusiswa & Co Inc. that is underway in order to develop terms in the finance and accounting domains. The ULPDO is in partnership with the partner with the School of Accounting, Economics & Finance.

The Bua Le Nna sessions were successfully held and concluded during this term. Students at various residences were able to participate and are now can converse in basic SeSotho language.

The corpus project is growing and the ULPDO is currently forging partnerships with Independent Newspapers, Mavuso Group, and Iziko Arts.

Bilingual Tutorial Trainings were successfully conducted on 3-4 March 2020, 16-17 July 2020 and 27-28 August 2020 focusing in the fields of music, psychology studies and health sciences studies respectively.

The translation of doctoral abstracts as per the university mandate continues. The Autumn graduation PHD abstracts are being finalised while the Autumn graduation PhD abstracts being translated.

The literature competition is underway. The call for participation has closed the office is working with the adjudicators in preparation of the event.

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2. TERMINOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Terminology development is one of the key projects of the ULPDO. It is central to the main deliverables of the office as it is one of the key drivers of the process of intellectualising African languages. It is common course that the terminology development is underpinned by three mandatory statutory processes i.e. consultative meeting, verification, and standardisation and all these processes are intrinsically interactive face-to-face engagements. Therefore, the announcement of national lockdown and subsequent restrictions imposed by the national state of disaster meant these processes had to be suspended and this has had serious negative impact on the implementation of this project. However, the easing of restrictions has brought some hope that this part of work will soon be started.

To this end, the office continues to engage with relevant authorities at UKZN persuading them to allow these workshops to start. It is worth noting that the office is in the advanced preparation stages with terminology from the following disciplines: Research, Accounting and Chemical Engineering. As soon as authorities relax the restrictions these workshops will take place at least before the end of this financial year.

3. ULB RUNNING PROJECTS

3.1 Bua Le Nna project

As reported in the last quarter, Bua Le Nna has been transitioned from physical contact into online because of the restrictions of COVID 19. Consequently, all twelve sessions have been successfully hosted online. This feat marked the end of our face-to-face sessions and ushered in the new era of online interactivity. The sessions were open to all students who wanted to participate wherever they are since it is now online. In as much as there were a number of challenges in implementing this online offering, It has also broadened the scope of the project by allowing facilitators also teach how to pronounce, read and write the language simultaneously since it is implemented on the WhatsApp platform, This platforms provides these added options e.g. recording an audio response and therefore reading and pronouncing or writing the responses during the session.

In order to efficiently implement the project a few adjustments had to be made, the following were developed as Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for this project:

1. The development of the lesson plan
2. The development of the lesson roster
3. The development of the online register

4. The alignment of the session plan
5. The hosting of the weekly preparation meeting and subsequent minutes
6. The development of the instruction channel weekly
7. The development of the weekly report.

It is worth noting that key to the office transitioning this project into online sessions was the creation, establishment, and maintenance of a WhatsApp chat group. This chat group was solely created, administered, and maintained by the ULPDO for purposes of Bua Le Nna. The office is therefore proud to report that a group of 36 students joined the sessions with varying numbers of active participants in each session. In the end, the project was implemented successfully and has a potential to grow and cover the whole institution if marketed well.

3.2 Corpus Building Project

2.2.1 Oral Corpus, Corpus Building, and parallel Corpus

The office is proud to continue to be the leading isiZulu corpus nationally. Currently its IsiZulu National Corpus is sitting at 31 775 784. Experts in the field argue that a credible corpus is the corpus that is balanced i.e. comprises of both written text and oral text. It is encouraging to record that to date the ULPDO has now reached the milestone of 139 hours 35 minutes and 55 seconds oral corpus that has been transcribed and verified. The tags are being verified and checked if they are compatible with the different languages used. On the other hand, the parallel is exponentially growing, sitting at 20 385 sentences.

The interest from the isiZulu writers/related sources to contribute to the INC is pleasing. The collection is going very well, the office is responding to this interest by intensifying the corpus collection efforts. Currently it is busy finalising its discussions with the following potential sources including Independent Newspapers with Mr Takudzwa, The Mavuso Group with Mr Mavuso, Mavundla media with Mr Mavundla, and Iziko Arts by Mr Mcambi.

3.3 Bilingual Tutorials Training

The office continues to work under these COVID 19 conditions. In the period under review, the office has successfully hosted three virtual Bilingual Tutorial Trainings on 3-4 March 2020, 16-17 July 2020 and 27-28 August 2020 they were held on music, psychology studies and health sciences studies respectively.

The facilitators from the college of education including Prof Buthelezi, Dr Gumbi and Dr Hlongwa did a sterling job during the training sessions. Whilst the participants also played their

part of the bargain by fully participating through asking relevant questions and making good comments. In the end of the trainings all participants indicated their appreciation of the project saying it has assisted them a great deal. Furthermore, they thanked the office for making sure that they are trained even under the difficult conditions of COVID 19. A few challenges were experienced since this was the new platform i.e. gadgets and connectivity issues however all issues were attended as and when they arose.

3.4 UKZN Doctoral Rule

The doctoral rule is also continuing to be key driver in the implementation of the university language policy and plan. This year 2020, the committee received a total of 158 abstracts. The distribution from colleges as follows Humanities submitted 66, Health Sciences submitted 27, Law and Management submitted 32 and Agriculture and Engineering submitted 33. At the time of this report the translated abstracts were with the editor, Dr Dlamini. So far, a total of 392 abstracts have been uploaded on to the Translation Management Tool (TMT). The discussions are still going in respect of the harmonization of the TMT with the library system for easy access.

3.5 ULPDO Seminar Series

The office continues with its efforts to sharpen and nurture the research skills of its staff members. These series help the staff members to reflect scientifically on the work they are doing. It also offers them the opportunity to peer review each other as a way of improving the quality of their research outputs. So far, they have been four seminars that have been held including Mr. Siyabonga Nkontwana on Bua le nna project titled "Bua le nna Online Using Technology as a response to covid 19", 9 June 2020, Mr Njabulo Manyoni and Mr Tholakele Zungu jointly presented a paper titled "Motivating for Specialized Multidisciplinary Electronic Dictionaries for the UKZN" 30 June 2020, Mr Njabulo Hadebe presented a paper on "Designing and Building isiZulu Oral Corpus", 28 July 2020 and lastly Ms Neo Putini "A brief Overview of Corpus Linguistics", 25 September 2020.

3.6 UKZN Website Translation

Part of the office mandate as identified and delegated by the University Language Board (ULB), the ULPDO and Corporate Relations Division were tasked to draw up a plan to translate the entire University Website in keeping with the bilingual language policy provisions. The two aforesaid units have drafted a plan for the translation of the University Website. The plan

proposes a two-phased project that is going to strategically respond to this initiative by the ULB. The proposed plan is going to be tabled in this ULB session for consideration (see the attached draft).

3.7 UKZN Literature Competition

This year, 2020 marks the 8th year since the inception of the literature competition in 2013. This literature competition is in keeping with the language policy direction of the university i.e. holistic language development. The theme for this year is the "Children Folklore". It is worth noting that the competition process was severely affected by the COVID-19, however the office swiftly responded by tweaking the approach so that processes can be done online. So far, the office has managed to hold meetings with the adjudicators via zoom and conducted writers training via WhatsApp. The advert was issued out on the 12th of August via ULPDO website, Isolezwe Newspapers and Ukhozi fm announcement and closed on the 16th of October 2020. A total of 29 entries were received and they are due for the adjudication scheduled for the month of November 2020.

4. CALENDAR EVENTS

4.1 International Translation Day

The University of KwaZulu-Natal Language Planning and Development Office yet again made history, as it hosted a groundbreaking webinar on an international translation day, 30 September 2020. The event was the first of its kind nationally after the national lockdown, this in many ways signified the seriousness of the University in emancipating the indigenous languages as espoused in its language policy and plan, 2006 revised in 2014. The theme of the webinar was "Finding the Words for a World in Crisis: Language practitioners' challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic". The keynote speaker was Professor Eleanor Cornelius from the University of Johannesburg and Dr Boni Zungu from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) as a respondent.

Professor Eleanor Cornelius serves on the Council of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (the Federation of International of Translators) and is the Vice-Chairperson of the South African Translators Institute (SATI). She is a member of the Accreditation Committee of SATI; a member of the Linguistic Society of South Africa (LSSA) and the South African Applied Linguistic Association (SAALA). Dr Boni Zungu is a Senior Lecturer in the African Languages at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She is a published scholar in Onomastics,

Sociolinguistics, Orality and Language Acquisition. She has been involved in Terminology Development since 2007. She is currently the Deputy Chairperson of isiZulu National Language Body which is a PanSALB structure. She has been on Executive Secretary of isiZulu Commission (2018 – 2020) under the Academy of African Languages (a substructure of the African Union).

The event was graced by the presence of the University Executives including Professor Sandile Songca DVC Teaching and Learning, Professor Brain McArthur DVC College of Law and Management and Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, Dean and Head of School in the College of Humanities. Other dignitaries were from as far as India, Modlingua Learning Academy; Fuzhou and Beijing, China and locally the Pan-SALB; KZN Department of Arts and Culture; KZN Legislature; EThekweni Municipality; University of Zululand; Durban University of Technology including the Confucius Institute at DUT; Northwest University and Mangosuthu University of Technology which all relayed their messages of support. The event was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning Professor Sandile Songca. In his welcome address he said the following:

"We welcome you into this important occasion which is organized under difficult conditions of COVID 19, a pandemic that has forced the whole world to recast new strategies to pursue our work" He continued by saying, "it is for this reason that, we for the first time celebrate this important day through technology rather than physical contact"

The University Language Planning and Development Office Acting Director, Dr. Makhubu-Badenhorst was the programme director of the day. In her remarks, she underscored the importance of advancing the language programme even under these difficult conditions. She also enunciated the importance of technology and its integration into the language development programme hence the hosting of webinar online for the first time. This she remarked represents a groundbreaking advancement of language development and it is an indication of the seriousness of the university about the development of African languages. Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa another well-known scholar in the field of language planning in her own right introduced the keynote speaker.

Professor Eleanor Cornelius presented a thought-provoking paper on the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID 19 on language practitioners. She painted a balanced view of the slow-paced transition of language practitioner's services (translation, interpreting and editing) to online provisions with an equally opportune time for language practitioners to curve their uncharted online services path during this COVID 19 pandemic. In her presentation, she gave a brief history of her involvement with FIT and SATI. She then eloquently navigated both the pitfalls and ample opportunities for language practitioners that are brought about by this new normal. She also encouraged language practitioners to join language organizations like

the (SATI) so that they can be protected in case they get abused by the clients, even more importantly if there are registered members they get to access private jobs that are advised by SATI on their website. Dr. Boni Zungu from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS University) and made a scholarly response to the presentation soon after the keynote speaker. She firstly thanked the UKZN for organizing this event and Prof Cornelius for her presentation. She zoomed into the challenges facing language practitioners decrying lack of standardized remuneration, working through the invisible middleman and shortage of accredited practitioners. She went on to encourage them not to work in silos but as a unit, she implored them to take their craft seriously and become specialists in what they do.

UKZN was hailed by participants for hosting such an important event and for being in the forefront in language development and for making sure that this day is celebrated even under these difficult conditions

Mr Buyani Mdluli from the KZN Legislature made the closing remarks, he also re-emphasized the spirit of working together to overcome all the challenges discussed. He further challenged all the practitioners to start seeing themselves as entrepreneurs rather than mere language practitioners. He lastly commended UKZN for hosting this event and that UKZN has made it possible to transition this celebration into online and encouraged other institutions to follow suit.

4.2 International Dictionary Day

The University Language Planning and Development Office was invited to attend the International Dictionary Day Celebration that was held at the Windmill Casino in Bloemfontein on the 16th of October 2020.

Mr N Manyoni and Mr Hadebe attended the event on behalf of the ULPDO and UKZN. The university delivered a message of support for the event as part of messages of support from higher education institutions that included the University of the Free State and Central University of Technology. Mr N Manyoni delivered the message of support on behalf of the university. There were various other national structures that were present in the event namely the National Language Body (NLB), National Lexicography Unit (NLU), Provincial Language Committee, National Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the House of Traditional Leadership (Free State).

The event was organized by PanSALB in its quest to agitate for the development of the seSotho and seTswana languages and the compilation of dictionaries for these two languages.

5. CONCLUSION

The staff members in the office are commended for the working tirelessly during these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hoped that all the activities planned for 2020 will be concluded at ease despite the current situation. The ULPDO managed to perform while experiencing change in leadership. In particular, sincere gratitude to Prof Langa Khumalo who has since left UKZN, Prof Songca for the invaluable support and warm welcome and Mr Khumbulani Mngadi for holding the fort together with the entire staff in the ULPDO.