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**University Language Planning and Development Office  
Third Quarterly Report: 2021**

**INSPIRING GREATNESS**

## **Third Quarterly Report July-Sept -2021.**

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## 1. Introduction

The University Language and Development Office (ULPDO) continues to work remotely, however some staff members do go to the office on an ad hoc basis. This report contains various activities that took place during the third quarter.

The office continues to assist in the facilitation of the BAQONDE Project with both local and international partners. The presentation for the university structures was prepared and sent to the DVC: Teaching & Learning for further actioning. It is hoped once the presentation is done, the needs analysis document will be finalized including the identification of lecturers who would participate in the project.

The Director participated in the Language Policy Colloquium which was hosted by the University of Stellenbosch together with Community of Practice for African Languages (CoPAL) under Universities South Africa (USAf). The colloquium focused on the New Language Policy Framework for Higher Education Institutions (NLPFHEIs) in South Africa whereby various university vice chancellor or their representatives participated. Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize did a presentation on for UKZN on behalf of the Vice Chancellor where he, inter alia, outlined how UKZN implements the current language policy and the envisaged plans for the implementation of the proposed NLPFHEIs in South Africa, that will be effective in 2022.

The office is approached by other universities who either seek advice or wish to forge partnerships with UKZN. The partnerships envisaged would be in a form of Memoranda of Agreement MoA once the preliminary meetings are sought. The meetings already held are with the University of Cape Town (UCT), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) and the one with the South African Digital Language Research (SADiLaR) is yet to be take place.

The preparations for the Biennial Language Research Symposium are underway. The invitation is posted in the ULPDO website and it is hoped that staff and postgraduate students will share their research on the language policy implementation, considering the 4IR.

The ULPDO, like other divisions in the university, is fully engaged in the Project Renewal processes. The Self Evaluation Report was compiled and duly submitted. The comments are being considered by staff in the ULPDO.

What follows in this report are the standing items which are the programmes of the office whilst other engagements.

## **2. Terminology Development**

As per 2021 terminology development project plan, the office completed its workshop on a Chemical Engineering verification workshop on 31<sup>st</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. It should be noted there were tedious data and connectivity issues. In the end, the committee members raised and recorded a few issues in respect of the challenges experienced and requested that these be raised in the relevant UKZN platforms. Issues raised regard the unsuitability of the online workshop in dealing with terminology, connectivity problems, human breaks and time spent comparatively speaking.

In the end, this workshop verified 250 terms. It is worth noting that the next stage, which is authentication of the chemical Engineering terms, is planned to take place on the first week of October 2021

## **3. Running Projects**

### **3.1. Bua Le Nna project**

In the period, under-review Bua Le Nna project was partly recess since students were also on a short break. However, the project has resumed. Therefore, two sessions have been hosted so far, which makes ten sessions out of thirteen sessions according to the annual plan. It is for this reason that the office views this project as one of the successful projects under COVID-19 regulations. The number of participants continue to fluctuate and that is evident in our signed registers. However, the project still possesses potential to grow and expand to the entire institution.

### **3.2. Corpus Project**

#### **3.2.1. Oral Corpus, Corpus Building and parallel Corpus**

The office continues to do this important work. To this end, on oral corpus, 137 out of 139 files have been tagged and verified to date. The plan is in place to deal to do the outstanding files in October 2021.

On Corpus Cleaning, the process of cleaning the files has started as in ongoing. On parallel corpus, it is also important to note that the statistics is been updated as the edited files are submitted.

#### **4. Bilingual Tutorials Training**

As outlined in the rollout plan, the office successfully hosted another bilingual tutorial training in this quarter. The training was hosted virtually with the College of Law and Management Sciences with IT discipline on the 9-10 September 2021. It is duly noted that the training has assisted in ensuring the quality of bilingual tutoring at UKZN, synergizing the methodology of tutoring, disseminating and utilization of authenticated terminology. This discipline has joined others in contributing to the intellectualization of isiZulu.

#### **5. Stakeholder Relations**

##### **5.1. International Translation Day**

As part of strengthening stakeholder relations ULPDO participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Translation Day Colloquium on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 which was virtually hosted by the Department of African Languages at Rhodes University in collaboration with SATI, on the following theme 'Teaching, Researching, Translating and Interpreting during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Lessons Learnt.

The ULPDO Director Dr. Makhubu-Badenhorst was invited to deliver a keynote address. She presented a paper on the role of translation in advancing the intellectualization of African Languages. In her talk she navigated challenges during the pandemic period and she shared light on how to advance with translating, interpreting, and editing during this difficult time. She also made clear the role of research in language services including translation, interpreting and editing.

During panel discussion, the panelists echoed the words articulated by Dr. Makhubu-Badenhorst and emphasized the importance of speeding up machine translation. In the end, the Colloquium was a huge success. Participants requested organizers to organize this colloquium annually.

#### **6. Seminar Series**

As part of developing research and presenting skills in the office, staff members have implemented the seminar series in preparation for conference and symposia participation. So far, Mr. Nkontwana, Mr. Hadebe and Ms Ngubane presented on various topics. The office therefore shaped their presentations by making valuable comments, which were then taken into consideration by all presenters. Surely, this exercise positively contributed to successful presentations in ALASA and UKZN Teaching and Learning Symposium. To this end three-seminar series sessions have been successfully hosted by the office

## 7. SASL Webinar

As part of recognising the multilingualism nature of the South African Constitution and equally appreciating the deaf community, as well as celebrating the fact that September is the International Month for Deaf People in commemoration of the first World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf which took place in September 1951, the office successfully hosted a SASL webinar on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021.

The webinar went well apart from minor glitches caused by connectivity. Like all other projects, there is room for improvement especially when it comes to webinars attended by deaf people.

As a follow-up on SASL matters, the ULPDO is working with Disability Unit to organise a workshop for the SASL interpreters. It is anticipated that such a workshop will have an external facilitator and will be held in November 2021.

## 8. Conference Attendance

The office continues to participate in various conferences on African languages development. In the period under review, four staff members including ULPDO Director presented papers in ALASA 18<sup>th</sup> international Hybrid Conference that took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 that was co-hosted by the University of Fort Hare in regent hotel, East London. The conference was a hybrid conference in that some delegates physically attended whilst others including the ULPDO staff members attended virtually. The following staff members from the ULPDO presented papers as follows:

1. **Ms Nomkhuleko Ngubane:** *"Critical reflections on the bilingual tutor training feedback."*
2. **Mr Siyabonga Nkontwana:** *"Towards the full implementation of a functional bilingualism Policy: A case of Academic Monitoring and Support (AMS) through Bilingual Tutorials at UKZN."*
3. **Mr Njabulo Manyoni:** *"From Glossary to an Electronic Dictionary: A Case of Law Terminology."*
4. **Dr Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst:** *"Analysis on the provision of SASL interpreting at universities in KwaZulu-Natal"*
5. **Dr Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst** and Ms Phumla Mbewana: *"Proposal for the offering of South African Sign Language as a module to the mainstream students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal"*
6. **Dr Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst** and Ms Malisema Makoa: *"The investigation of conjunctive writing adoption in Sesotho orthography in the three selected high schools in Thaba-Tseka district in Lesotho"*

All these papers were received well by conference attendees who contributed through their comments in strengthening these papers for publication.

On the other hand, the ULPDO Computational Linguist, **Mr Njabulo Hadebe** presented a paper titled: *"Toward a model for acceptance of Human Language Technologies in higher education: the modified UTAUT model for KwaZulu-Natal in Teaching and Learning Symposium.*

## **9. Conclusion**

The office continues to work with outside stakeholders, both nationally and intentionally on language related matters. The invaluable contribution and support from various parties is appreciated. It is hoped that there will be a university review on the physical and virtual engagements following the level at which the country is with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.