

SUBMISSION IDENTIFIERS:

Title	UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL LANGUAGE BOARD REPORT FOR 2019/2020
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APPROVAL HISTORY

Structure consulted	Date	Outcome
University Language Board	June 2020	
Senate		

SUBMISSION CONTENT

Proposal To note the ninth annual University Language Board Report (ULB) (2019/2020) as required by policy.
Motivation The 2019/2020 ULB Report is the ninth such report to Senate in conformity with the University Language Policy and Plan (2014), which specifies that a bilingual annual report must be presented to the University Senate. The current report documents further work and progress that the ULB has made towards the implementation of the University Language Policy and Language Plan.
Financial implications Indicated in the report.
Attachments The University of KwaZulu-Natal Language Board Report For 2019/2020.

University of KwaZulu-Natal Language Board Report for 2019/2020

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1. Introduction

Membership of the University Language Board 2014:

Professor S Songca (Chair)	DVC: Teaching & Learning
Professor L Khumalo	Director: University Language Planning & Development
Professor R Dhunpath	Director: Teaching & Learning
Professor N Hlongwa	Representative: College of Humanities
Dr. R Laka-Mathebula	Executive Director: Student Services
Dr. A Bengesai	Representative: College of Law & Management
Dr S Mkhize	Representative: College of Health Sciences
Dr. G Mazibuko	Academic Expert
Dr. N Sibiya	Academic Expert
Dr. M Mbatha	Representative: PANSALB
Ms J Myeza	Representative: Support Services
Mr. L Vorster	Representative: College of Agriculture, Eng. & Sc.
Mr. K Mngadi	Coordinator: ULPDO
Mr.W Makane	CSRC Representative

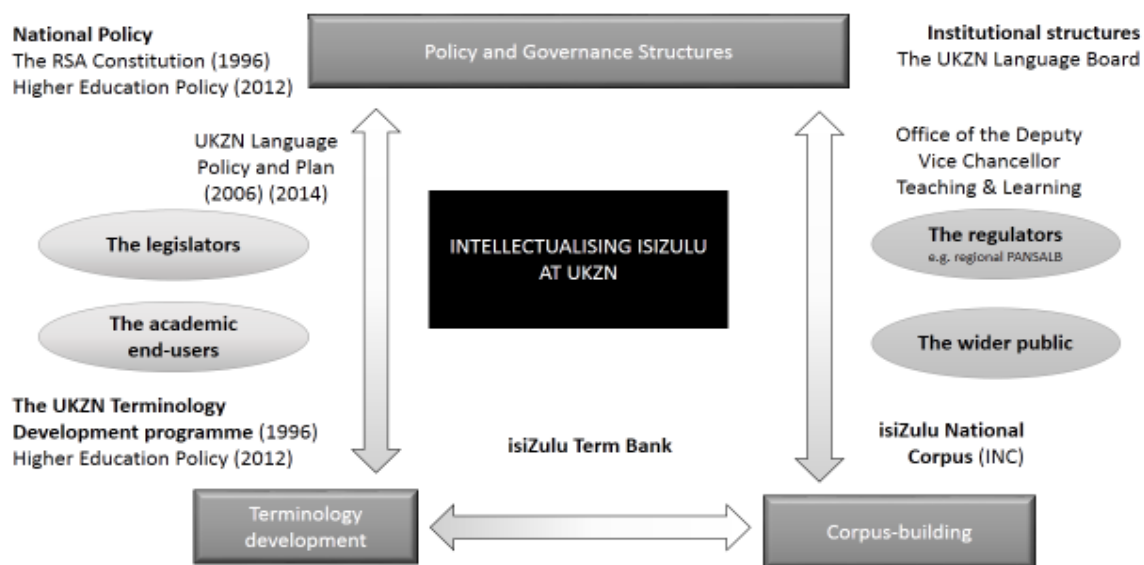
The University Language Board (ULB) successfully held all its four meetings as scheduled in 2019. The ULB plays an oversight role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Language Policy and Plan across all Colleges and various sectors of the university. Through this oversight role it also monitors and evaluates the work done by the University Language Planning and Development Office, an office charged with the implementation of all language activities and programs aimed at institutionalizing isiZulu as one of the two official languages of the University. This process involves a complex programme to intellectualize isiZulu so that it carries the capacity that enables it to be used in administration, research, teaching and learning. The 9th Senate report outlines progress made in the period under review.

2. University Language Planning and Development Office (ULPDO)

The 2019 ULPDO language activity was premised on the University of KwaZulu-Natal Strategic Plan (2017-2021), particularly Goal 1 (To Achieve Excellence in Teaching and Learning). The core mandate of the ULPDO is to operationalize the University Language Policy (2006 ~ 2014). The Language Policy itself responds to the constitutional imperative (Section 6(4) Constitution, 1996), and particularly the Use of Official Languages Act 12 of 2012. It will be clear in this report that the ULPDO language activity involves key stakeholders internally and externally in order to successfully implement the UKZN Language Plan.

The major activities in the Language Programme for 2019 were Corpus Building, Terminology Development, Literature Development and the 3rd Biennial Language Research Symposium. The figure below depicts the two main pillars of the intellectualization effort and the partnerships necessary to enable this process. These are the disciplinary terminology development and corpus building.

Fig. 1. Language program: Intellectualization of isiZulu



3. Implementation of the language policy and Plan

The ULPDO strategy to implement the language policy and plan identified the following key performance initiatives. a) The development of terminology for identified disciplines, terminology that is necessary in order to enable the translation of doctoral abstracts as articulated in the Doctoral Rule (DR9) Rule. b) The role out of the Bilingual Tutor Training Programme, which involves the training of identified cohorts of tutors in providing tutorials in both English and IsiZulu. c) The development of corpora, that is the monolingual IsiZulu National Corpus (INC), the English-IsiZulu Parallel Corpus (EIPC) and the IsiZulu Oral Corpus (IOC), as important resources necessary in the development of Human Language Technologies for IsiZulu. d) Literary development, which involves training IsiZulu budding authors, orthography and spelling rules of

the language, glossary and dictionary publications, the annual ULB literature competition, the teaching of Sesotho as part of ULPDO's social cohesion initiative, and Sign Language Advocacy.

Table 1. Key Performance Initiatives.

Key Performance Initiatives - ULPDO

Problem	Project Title	Project Goal	Target Group	Programme Delivery	Indicators	Programme Results
1. English medium hegemony. Inaccessible curriculum. Paucity of specialized terminology. Decolonization & transformation.	IsiZulu Language Development for Research, Teaching & Learning.	Provide T&L in both English and isiZulu by 2030.	Black undergraduate	- Terminology Development - Consultation (BA17) - Verification (BA18) - Authentication (BA19) - ULB Projects (BA14) - Hire Language Practitioner (BA13)	1000 terms and 1 x published bilingual glossary.	Terminology in English and isiZulu for disciplines in Science and Engineering. Improved throughput. Curriculum transformation.
		DR 9 Rule Implementation.	PhD Students	Translation of ALL PhD abstracts into isiZulu (BA10)	ALL abstracts translated into English/isiZulu.	ALL bilingual abstracts available in the library. Accessible knowledge.
2. Academic Monitoring & Support	IsiZulu Bilingual Tutorial	AMS Bilingual Tutorials.	Black undergraduate students	- AMS Bilingual Tutorials (BA15) - Student development - IsiZulu Academic Writing	4 x disciplines per annum.	- Bilingual tutorial offering in 4 x disciplines per annum. - Improved throughput.
3. Technical and Data Analytics Skills	Human Language Technology (HLT) Development.	Provide HLTs in English and isiZulu.	ALL staff and students	- Computational Linguistics Workshops (BA16) - Corpora maintenance and development (BA16) - Hire Computational Linguist (BA13)	- Clean IsiZulu National Corpus (INC) - Developed Corpora - Provide Machine Learning.	- Parallel Corpus - Automated Translation Tool (INC) - New Language Teaching Pedagogies (English and isiZulu disciplines).
4. Strategic Language Collaboration.	Social Cohesion and Community Engagement.	Foster collaboration that advances language research, development and discourse.	- Staff and Students - KZN community - DAC & PanSALB - HE Institutions	- IsiZulu Writing Club (BA23) - Literature Competitions (BA14) - Bua Le Nna (BA21) - Sign Language Advocacy (BA22) - Language Awareness Campaigns (BA11 & BA20)	- Language Awareness - Workshops - Sessions.	- Publications - Language Teaching - MOAs.

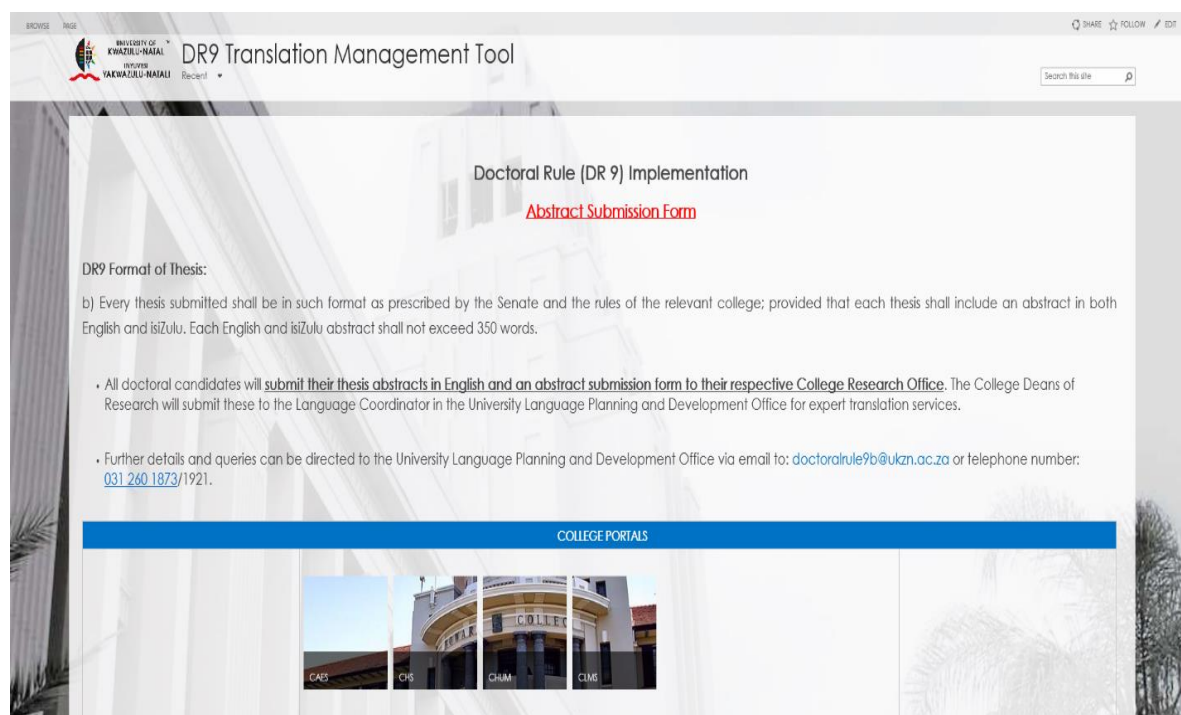
Terminology development includes statutory and mandatory processes, which consist of various stages namely, terminology harvesting, terminology consultation, terminology verification and terminology standardization. All these stages involve both internal and external stakeholders who actively participate at each stage. It is notable that the verification and standardization stages are statutory requirements that are facilitated by the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). The ULPDO works very closed with PanSALB in order to satisfy this statutory requirement.

In 2019 ULPDO managed to develop terminology for the Music discipline. Working with music experts a total of 536 terms were taken through the consultative, verification and standardization workshops. Under the same period, the ULPDO completed the standardization of 542 terms for the Anatomy discipline. A total of 1078 specialized terms were standardized for the two disciplines. The workshops to consult, verify and standardized terms for both disciplines were funded by the University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG). The standardized Music and Anatomy terminology has now been entered into the IsiZulu Term Bank <https://ukzntermbank.ukzn.ac.za/PublicSearch.aspx>. The term bank has terminology for 16 other specialized disciplines. Terminology harvesting for Chemical Engineering, Finance and Accounting and Research disciplines are currently underway.

One of the stated aims of the UKZN language policy is to “achieve for isiZulu the institutional and academic status of English” and to “provide facilities to enable the use of isiZulu as a language of learning, instruction, research and administration.” (Language Policy of the UKZN, 2014:2). In November 2016, the UKZN Senate approved a Doctoral Rule (DR9(b)) that requires an abstract in both English and isiZulu in all doctoral dissertations. This language rule for doctoral degrees has a symbolic and real impact in advancing the use of isiZulu together with English in teaching, learning, and research. A committee of experts was established by the ULB to translate and edit all submitted PhD abstracts.

The implementation of the DR9 Rule has thus become an important activity. One of the most important developments in the period under review has been the establishment of the Translation Management Tool (TMT), which is now fully functional and is linked to the UKZN library. The tool monitors the submission of the doctoral abstracts in English from the College offices to ULPDO for translation and editing, and linking the two English and IsiZulu abstracts with the completed doctoral dissertation in the Library. Below is a screenshot of the Translation Management Tool (TMT):

Figure 2. The Translation Management Tool (TMT)



Apart from the Music terminology development workshops, the ULPDO also hosted IsiZulu Orthography Workshop, the Bilingual Tutor Training Workshops for four disciplines, the DR9 abstracts translation workshops, the Autshumato (Automated) Translation System Training Workshop, a University wide language awareness campaigns (in five campuses), the Bua Le Nna Sesotho language sessions (13 sessions) and various other stakeholder meetings.

The ULPDO held various meetings with its strategic partners both internal and external such as media houses (Ilanga and Isolezwe newspapers), Shuter and Shooter Publishers, Department of Student Residences Affairs, Students Governance and Leadership Development, and UKZN Press, in order to enable the successful execution of some language activities. To this end, Isolezwe and Ilanga have initiated negotiations on the signing of an MoU that will cement an already existing collaboration on data mining and corpus collection.

4. Language Research Symposium

The University Language Planning and Development Office hosted its Third Biennial Language Research Symposium at UNITE Building at the Howard College Campus on 30 – 31 October

2019. The theme of the 2019 Language Research Symposium was *Language and Decolonization in a Transforming Higher Education Sector: Celebrating the International Year of Indigenous languages*.

This theme was motivated by the fact that the year 2019 was declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The thematic strands were as follows:

1. Language policy and planning in Higher Education
2. Human Language Technologies
3. Terminology, Lexicography and Dictionary Compilation
4. Corpus and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
5. Language of teaching and learning, research in Higher Education

The Language Research Symposium was officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning and the Chair of the ULB, Professor Sandile Songca. He emphasized that the University views language as vitally important in any academic process. He stated that the University is thus committed to develop isiZulu, and lauded the ULPDO for doing a sterling job in the implementation of the University Language Policy and Plan.

The Symposium had the distinction of attracting two very important experts in the area of Language, Decoloniality, Development and Corpus Planning, Professor Dion Nkomo from the School of Languages and Literatures at Rhodes University and Professor Muxe Nkondo, a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) at the University of North (now the University of Limpopo) and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Venda.

The Symposium papers were very insightful. The papers were engaging, and mostly covered the importance of language in higher education, particularly its role in epistemological access and student success. Conferring was lively and robust with a lot of ideas exchanged between presenters and the audience. It was interesting to note that both the students and academics presented at the symposium.

5. Bua Le Nna

As part of implementing multilingualism at the University in order to initiate and foster social cohesion within the University community, ULPDO continues to offer the *Bua le Nna* (Let'sTalk) program as a running project in the student residences. The purpose of the program is to teach conversational Sesotho to non-Sesotho speaking students at UKZN student residences. This project, initiated in 2014, is important in creating both linguistic and cultural awareness and tolerance within the university's diverse (multilingual and multicultural) student body. In 2019 the ULPDO held a total of 13 sessions, and these were expected to continue into 2020.

5.1. Online Bua Le Nna Sessions

The plan to conduct the 2020 Bua Le Nna sessions was disrupted first by the student protests that took place at the beginning of the first semester, and later by the global crisis that resulted in many countries taking unusual measures such as closing schools, colleges and universities in a massive lockdown in order to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The ULPDO took a strategic decision to transition Bua Le Nna sessions from physical contact sessions to virtual sessions, wherein the language champions who teach Sesotho will deliver their content on line. The content is prepared following a designed lesson plan, pre-recorded and edited, and then posted online through WhatsApp. The WhatsApp Group classroom has an administrator

and an assistant administrator from ULPDO. The scheduled sessions are planned as follows:

1. The sessions are not offered virtually through a WhatsApp Group classroom with pre-recorded audio content.
2. The sessions are available weekly through the WhatsApp classroom.
3. The time for these sessions will remain the same (18h00-19h00).

The ULPDO has decided to acquire data for the Bua Le Nna champions who are teaching in these sessions. ULPDO staff and students are already supported in this regard. Additional data for students that attend Bua Le Nna sessions is being considered between ULPDO and the Student Services Division.

6. Seminar Series

In year 2019, the ULPDO initiated the seminar series programme, where all staff members are given an opportunity to present the topic of their choice. The topic should be in line with the work that is done at ULPDO. The objective is to share knowledge in the area in which a staff member is working (e.g. translation, corpus, language policy research, lexicography, etc.), and to also receive feedback from colleagues on the knowledge shared. There were six seminar presentations that were done by ULPDO staff, which served a dual purpose of deepening the scholarship of various areas of our language focus, and also as an important rehearsal for staff members who were also going to present the same papers at the 3rd Biennial Language Research Symposium in October 2019.

After transitioning all our Language Activities to virtual platforms following the national shutdown as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the first 2020 Webinar was delivered by Mr. Siyabonga Nkontwana, in May 2020. His seminar presentation was titled: *Bua le Nna online: using technology as a response to Covid-19*. The presentation provided the essential building blocks in repackaging the Bua Le Nna sessions and offer them through a virtual classroom (*see 5.1 above*).

7. Corpus Development

Corpus development is one of the two pillars of the language programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Corpora are an important precursor in the development of Machine Learning tools that will enable the intellectualization of IsiZulu at UKZN. ULPDO is preparing for the development of English-IsiZulu automated translations systems and a speech-to-text technology for IsiZulu. To this end the ULPDO is developing three types of corpora concurrently. These are the IsiZulu National Corpus (INC), the English-IsiZulu Parallel Corpus (EIPC) and the IsiZulu Oral Corpus (IOC). These corpora have a strategic purpose in the development of various human language technologies. The INC is currently the biggest African Language Corpus in the world, with 31.7 million tokens, and is deputized by the Helsinki Corpus of Swahili with 25 million tokens.

ULPDO has made commendable progress on the EIPC and the IOC. This, despite the challenges of lockdown. The EIPC has already surpassed the annual target of 15 000 parallel sentence texts, and now stands at 15 503 parallel sentence texts. The IOC is chasing a target of 100 hours by the end of the year, and currently stands at just over 93 hours. The corpus team is developing tag sets for the annotation of the IOC using the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). This work is progressing well.

8. ULPDO Services

The ULPDO continues to offer **translation, interpreting and editing** services to the entire University community on request. These services are listed below.

Translation Services

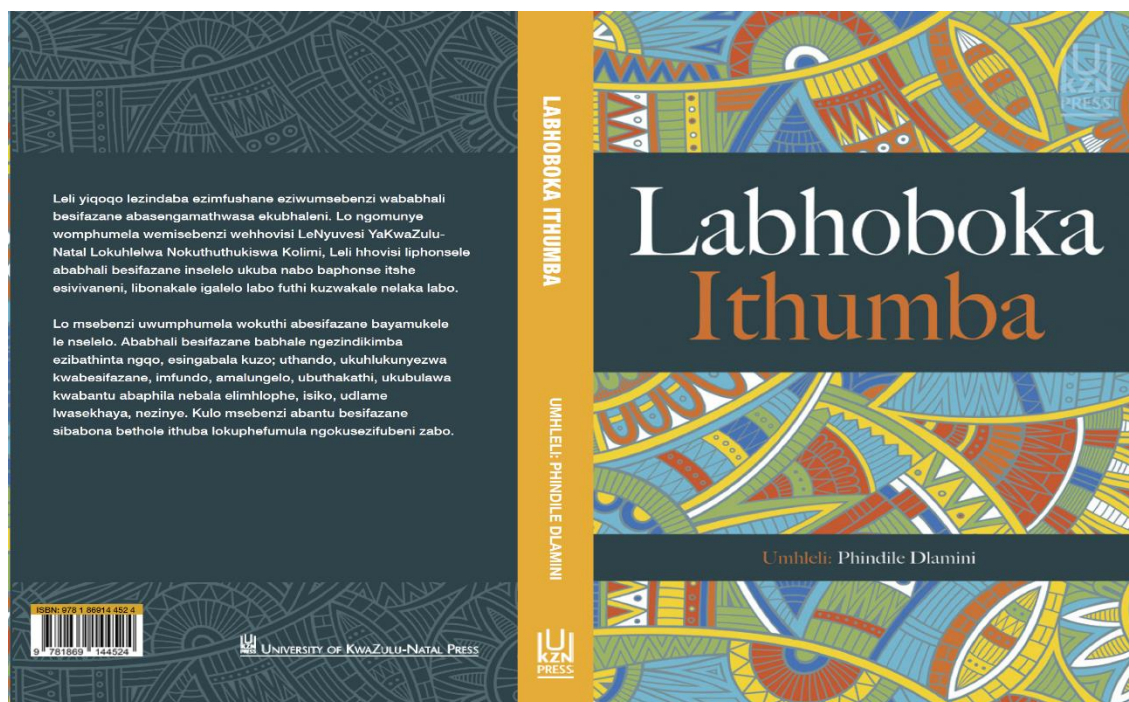
- 2019 UKZN Annual Reports
 - Chair of council's Report
 - Vice Chancellor's Report
 - Excerpts from College Reports
- PhD Abstracts: 2019 April and September Graduations
- Human Resources
 - Official Notices
 - Communiques
- School of Clinical Medicine
 - Flyers, leaflets
 - Research documentation (questionnaires and information sheets)
- Corporate Relations:
 - Notices
 - Campaign Documents
 - Weekly Publication Articles
 - UKZN Ndaba online
- Student Research Questionnaires and Information Sheets
- Course Material:
 - Course notes
 - Learner Guides
 - Tutorial Packs
 - Test and Examination Question Papers
- ULPDO:
 - Event Invites
 - Programmes
 - Biographical notes
 - Reports
 - Policy Documents
 - Certificates of Attendance
 - Leaflets and Flyers

Interpreting Services

- University Events
 - Graduation Ceremonies
 - Public Lectures
 - Launch events
 - Conferences and seminars
- Human resources
 - Disciplinary Hearings
 - Workshops
 - Meetings

9. Looking ahead

The ULPDO will be launching three books and the second version of the Zulu Mobile Lexicon (ZuluLex), in November 2020. The book *Labhoboka Ithumba*, Edited by Dr P Dlamini, which is a collection of short-stories by female authors only, has been finalized.



The IsiZulu orthography book is now in the printing press and should be out by the end of July 2020. The third publication, whose manuscript is still being finalized, is the Anatomy Glossary. The delay has been as a result of the lockdown. The books were expected to be out by April 2020.

10. Publications

- a) Khumalo, L Azom, V. Olukanmin, P. 2019. The design and Implementation of a corpus management system for isiZulu national corpus. In Humanists and the digital toolbox. Novus Forlog: Oslo.
- b) Keet, MC. and Khumalo, L. 2019. Parthood and partwhole relations in Zulu language and culture. Applied Ontology 3 IOS Press.
- c) Khumalo, L. 2019. Corpora as agency in the intellectualization of African languages. In The Transformative Power of Language: From Postcolonial to Knowledge Society in Africa. Cambridge: CUP.