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University Language Planning and Development Office

Second Quarterly Report: 2015

INSPIRING GREATNESS



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The University Language Planning and Development Office (ULPDO) continues to initiate synergistic relations with institutions that support its language development programs. The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has invested a lot of resources in the isiZulu terminology development and isiZulu National Corpus (INC) development initiatives. These two major initiatives have fuelled close cooperation between UKZN and the Department of Arts and Culture, the Pan-South African Languages Board, the EThekweni Municipality and the KZN Provincial Legislature. These important stakeholders work closely with ULPDO in supporting and participating in our terminology development workshops and in providing corpus materials for the INC. Other language programs initiated by ULPDO and supported by other departments and institutions to foster social cohesion are the *Bua le nna* and the South African Sign Language Advocacy Day. UKZN is thus being acknowledged as the hive of isiZulu language development and intellectualization.

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1. Introduction

The University Language Board initiated a review process for the Language Policy and Plan early last year. After going to all University structures as required, the Language Policy and Plan was successfully approved by Senate and Council respectively in November and December 2014. The revised Language Policy and Plan has, for the first time, been translated to isiZulu.

In the period under review the ULPDO successfully convened two consultative workshops for environmental studies and law disciplines, and one verification workshop for the environmental studies discipline. These statutory workshops were well attended, and for the first, the law consultative workshop was attended by Member of Parliament in the National Assembly, Honorable Dr. M. Khoza.

In its continued effort to develop a reading culture in isiZulu, and to also sharpen the writing skills of novice writers in isiZulu, ULPDO hosted a reading and writing workshop. At this workshop Dr. Gugu Mazibuko shared critical writing skills with the participants. The workshop attracted a number of prospective isiZulu authors who are keen to develop and become established and respected isiZulu authors. A second workshop of this kind will be hosted on the 20th of June 2014.

Other language programs initiated by ULPDO to foster social cohesion are the *Bua le nna* program and the South African Sign Language Advocacy. The former is well supported by student services and is facilitated through our language champions, and the latter involves stakeholders such as the Disability Unit at Howard College, the Deaf Federation of South Africa, the South African National Deaf Association, the Blind and Deaf Society, the KZN DAC, PanSALB and the Durban University Technology. These critical stakeholders have supported our initiative to make SA Sign Language and the Deaf Community more visible in the University community. This is in consonant with the spirit and letter of the Use of Official Languages Act (2012), which recognises SA Sign Language as a language equal in status to the eleven official languages of the country.

The Director of ULPDO presented a talk at the Legislature on the corpus building initiative underway at UKZN. Consequent to that presentation the Legislature has made available literature in the form of Hansards and other documents for corpus building. To cement the cordial relations that have developed between the two institutions, the Speaker of the KZN Provincial Legislature invited the Director of ULPDO to a special session on the Africa Day. On the day, the Chief Operations Officer at the Legislature noted the important relationship that has evolved between our two institutions and pledged continued support to our language planning and development initiatives.

Langa Khumalo
Director:ULPDO

2. Terminology Development

The isiZulu terminology development is one of the vitally important programs that are fundamental to the intellectualization of isiZulu. The focus in developing discipline specific terminology is in line with its goal number one of ULPDO's strategic plan, which is "to develop specialized technical terminology in order to compile a specialized multi-disciplinary comprehensive bilingual isiZulu glossary". As a result the Office continues to host workshops that develop terminology in order to fulfill the above mentioned goal. In this quarter, there are three terminology development workshops that were held, namely the Environmental Studies Consultative Workshop, the Law Terminology Workshop and the Environmental Studies Verification Workshop. The above mentioned workshops are discussed in full details below.

2.1. Environmental studies consultative workshop.

The ULPDO successfully hosted the Environmental Studies Consultative Workshop which, was held on the 17-19 March 2015 at Coastlands on the Ridge.



In the picture are the collaborators for this workshop including, Professor A. Maphumulo, Professor O. Nxumalo, Dr. L Makhubu (DUT), Dr. B Zungu (Wits), Dr, Dr S Ntul (UKZN), Dr M Ndlovu (UNISA), Mr Z. Xala, Mr. H Gumede (UKZN), Mr. V Mshengu (Mun), Mr. B Nxumalo (DUT), Ms. G Mkhize (UKZN), Ms. J Ngcobo (PanSALB), Ms J Msibi (DAC), Mrs. D. Dladla (DAC), Mr S. Ndlovu (DAC), the subject specialists included, Ms F. Saunders, and Mr T. Wisill, the student included (Mr. D Khambule), Ms S Radebe and Mr S Gumede and the ULPDO staff members.

The consultative workshop is meant to take the terminology to the isiZulu speaking people, who then share views on each term created with subject specialists, language practitioners, linguists and lexicographers, so that together they can make comments and suggestions that will then be taken to the next stage, which is verification. This exercise was very important because it compelled participants to have an understanding of the environmental issues. Thus developing isiZulu environmental terminology will not only profit the students at colleges and universities but will also benefit the community at large. The collaborators make valuable contributions out of robust discussions. The workshop also served as the preparatory meeting for students who attended since they gained both knowledge and experience of being part of this institutional task. As a result the workshop also became a platform to groom students to become future touch bearers for this exercise. The reflections of the participants through evaluations done by the language researcher indicated that the workshop went very well. At the end of the workshop 513 isiZulu terms were coined. These terms are now ready for the next stage, which is verification due to take place on the 5th of May 2015.

2.2. Law Consultative Workshop

The ULPDO successfully hosted the Environmental Studies Verification Workshop which, was held on the 19-21 May 2015.



In the picture are the collaborators for this workshop including, Prof A. Maphumulo, Dr. B. Khuzwayo, Mr. Z. X2ala, PanSALB included Ms. J Ngcobo, the subject specialists included Mr. K. Zondi, Mr. S Ngcobo, Mr. T Ndlovu, Mr S Phungula, Mr A Gwacela, DAC were, Ms J Msibi, Mr S Ndlovu and Mrs N Dladla, UKZN included Dr. G Mazibuko, DUT included, Mr B Nxumalo the Durban Municipality included Mrs W Ngongoma, the students were, Mr S Gumede, Ms Z Mkentane, Ms S Radebe and Mr Khambula; the legislature included, Mr M Ngcobo and Mr Z Manqele and the ULPDO staff members.

It has been mentioned above that the consultative workshop is the first stage in the terminology development processes. The law discipline successful took 250 terms through all the terminology development processes up to standardization last year. This law consultative workshop was the beginning of the second phase of terminology development in the law discipline. The consultative workshop enabled isiZulu speaking community and the student of language to participate in a forum with law experts, linguists and lexicographers in the creation of law terminology. This resonates well with goal number three of ULPDO which states: “empowering communities with linguistic and cultural skills in order to promote community engagement and foster social cohesion”. The collaborators, including subject experts, made valuable contribution through robust discussions during the workshop.

The workshop went very well, judging from the sentiments expressed by one of the participants who noted that: “the workshop was informative and interesting, we are grateful that ULPDO continues to organize such workshops.” At the end of the workshop 492 terms were coined. These terms are now ready for the next stage, which is verification.

2.3. Environmental studies verification workshop.

The ULPDO successfully hosted the Environmental Studies Verification Workshop which, was held on the 5-8 May 2015 at Emakhosini Boutique Hotel.



In the picture are the collaborators for this workshop including, Prof A. Maphumulo, Dr. B. Khuzwayo, Mr. Z. Xala, Mr. J Simelane (PanSALB), Ms. J Ngcobo, and Ms. F Mokoena, the subject specialists included, Ms F. Saunders, Ms. S Munien, Ms. F Ahmeal and Ms N. Gebreslasie and the ULPDO staff members.

The verification workshop is the second stage in the statutory terminology development processes. Dr L Khumalo, the ULPDO Director, officially opened the workshop. He welcomed and thanked everyone present, and commended their commitment to the national task of developing indigenous languages. The National Language Body committee members fully participated at this stage. There were robust discussions in almost each and every term.

According to the opinion of the majority of the participants solicited through evaluation forms the workshop went well. The participants were happy to have been part of the workshop. At the end of the workshop 482 terms were verified. These terms are now ready for the next stage, which is Standardization and Authentication.

3. Running Projects

3.1. Bua Le Nna project

In 2014 ULPDO initiated as one of its running projects, the Bua le nna program. The program is implemented in conjunction with the office of the director of student services through language champions and ULPDO staff. The program is aimed at teaching conversational Sesotho to non-Sesotho speaking students at UKZN student residences. The residences where the program has been piloted were carefully chosen, one female residence and the other male residence, respectively Ansell May Hall and John Bews. The program seeks to introduce different indigenous languages to one another in a relaxed, cheerful, but informative way. Consequentially students embrace, appreciate, and respect cultural and linguistic diversity. Thus far the students in both residences, and the language champions are very excited to have been part of this program. In the picture are some of the students who participated in this session.

In this quarter the ULPDO Bua le nna team, working with our champions, held a session on the 14th of May 2015. This session was successful and interesting, in that the two residences, John Bews and Ansell May, were combined. The students participated in the most interesting parts of the programme especially during the competition, which was based on what they had learned in this semester. The female residence appeared to have learnt more than their male counterparts. This did indicate to us that students are indeed learning Sesotho. Looking at the session evaluations, 90 percent of the students indicated that the project is proceeding well and they are keen to participate next semester when it resumes.



In the picture are some of the students who participated in the last bua le nna session.

3.2. Corpus Project

Corpus building and maintenance is an ongoing activity. The Director led a team of staff members to the SABC and the KZN legislature where he spoke about the development of an isiZulu National Corpus (INC) and how this national repository is going to profit the Higher Education through research, Publishers and the Corporate sector through the development of computer applications such as the isiZulu spell checker, and for posterity. The two institutions have availed materials for corpus building and marketing our programs. These institutions have expressed commitment to working with UKZN and particularly to allow the ULPDO to collect corpus materials we need anytime.

3.3. Reading and Writing workshop

The ULPDO in collaboration with DUT and KZN Arts and Culture hosts reading and writing workshops at Howard College Campus in order to inculcate and encourage the culture of reading isiZulu works and more importantly to equip, sharpen and enhance the writing skills of novice writers. These skills are necessary in the creation of the next generation of writers, and to prepare these writers for isiZulu writing competitions.

The plan is to host at least four of these workshops annually. Therefore the first workshop was held on the 5th of March 2015. Dr. Mazibuko facilitated at the workshop successfully, and the next workshop is due to take place on the 20th of June 2015.

4. External Conference/Workshop Attendance

Skills training and development are essential for the effective and excellent discharge of one's duties. It is in this sense that the office commits its staff members to participate in skills development workshops that develop them in order to perform their duties better and effectively. Thus the ULPDO Administrator, Ms. Ngubane, attended a nationwide summit in Johannesburg on the 28th and 29th of May 2015.



In the picture are three participants from UKZN L-R, Ms Ngubane (ULPDO PA/Administrator), Ms Ogle (DVC Exec P/A), Ms Mchunu (T&L PA/Administrator).

The summit was attended by PAs/Administrators from UKZN and from various Universities in South Africa. The Executive PA of the Vice Chancellor of UKZN, Ms Msomi was invited as a speaker in one of the sessions at the Summit. In total there were 22 PAs/Administrators and 1 manager.

The Summit attendants shared their collective experiences and challenges. Some of the topics that were covered at the summit include:

- Managing upward, and effectively handling additional responsibilities
- Optimizing performance by effectively managing time and priorities
- Developing the skills and tools to lead and manage people
- Learning how to position yourself as an effective and respected business partner
- Understanding how to prioritize correctly to be more efficient and productive
- Gaining insight into the critical influencing communication strategies used by successful upward managers

The speakers did well in offering expert advice and insights on current and anticipated challenges at the workplace as well as tips for career advancement.

5. Sign Language advocacy day

The ULPDO successfully hosted the second advocacy workshop on the 14 of April 2015 at Westville campus. It involved both internal and external relevant stakeholders, namely the UKZN Disability Unit, South African National Deaf Association, Blind and Deaf Society, Pan South African Languages Board, and Durban University of Technology.



In the picture are some of the participants during the workshop. The Commissioner, Mr. S Dlamini is seen standing with DUT students and staff members.

The theme of the day was “University of KwaZulu-Natal Connecting People with SA Sign Language”. The workshop was held outdoors in order to have interactive sign language advocacy day wherein the participants interact freely with the university community (students and staff) on issues pertaining to the Deaf community. The objectives of this event were *inter alia* to celebrate South African Sign Language as a basic human right for the Deaf Community as advocated in the South African Constitution, to also bring to the fore the issues that confront the Deaf Community amongst us, and to make people see the importance of learning the SA sign language.

The occasion was graced by the presence the Commissioner Mr. Scelo Dlamini. His speech resonated well with the objectives and the theme of this event.

The event was dominated by a number of people interested in learning and understanding more about the sign language. At the end the event was concluded on a very high note after Commissioner Dlamini had delivered his speech.

6. Stakeholder Relations

6.1. Invitation to KZN Legislature

The Speaker of the KZN Legislature invited the ULPDO Director, Dr. L Khumalo to attend the special session of the Provincial Parliament. The Director together with the Language Researcher, Mr. S Nkontwana represented the Office at this Africa Day debate, which took place in the legislature on the 28th of May 2015.



In the picture is the KZN Premier, Mr S. Mchunu addressing the members of the Legislature.

The debate went very well. Different political parties made valuable contributions. The Chief Operations Officer (COO) noted and appreciated the presence of UKZN through ULPDO. He reiterated the Legislature's commitment to our programs. He specifically mentioned that he commits to inviting the office in other important meetings of the Legislature that are of mutual interests. This is a positive indication that ULPDO continues to forge synergistic relations with relevant stakeholders for the benefit of its programs and that of the university.