

**African Language Association
of Southern Africa**

**ALASA NEWS LETTER
UMBIKO KA-ALASA
ALASA NUUSBRIEF**



**8. UNIVERSITY
OF CAPE TOWN**

**9th – 11th July 2018
University of Cape Town**

Newsletter No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE

page

1.	EDITORIAL.....	2
2.	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA: DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES	3
3.	UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA	4
4.	RHODES UNIVERSITY	5
5.	UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL	8
6.	CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY.....	9
7.	UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE	12
8.	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN.....	13
9.	FROM THE SCIENTIFIC EDITOR'S DESK: SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES.....	21
10.	ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	22

1. EDITORIAL

1.1 MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

This Newsletter is an update on the many activities of our growing association. However, it is regretted that we were unable to communicate with you through the Newsletter since 2015. As the former editor of the newsletter indicated previously, the newsletter is published once a year due to the scarcity of current and pertinent news from institutions and, unfortunately, some members of ALASA appear not keen to share their accomplishments. As the editor, I passionately appeal to the entire membership to share joys and grief as part and, in accordance with our African Philosophy of Ubuntu. As members of ALASA we are a family hence, we should continue to embrace that philosophy.

On behalf of the members of ALASA, we convey our sincere gratitude to the exuberant Dr Mantoa Motinyane and her team for hosting the memorable 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, "African Languages and Protest". To Dr Mantoa Motinyane and her team we say "Siyabulela", "Siyabonga", "Re a leboga", "Ri a livhuha", "Ha khensa", "Thank you", and "Dankie" Nangamsa!

Finally, it is my great pleasure to share with you the latest news from our colleagues in the African language departments and since this is the last Newsletter to appear under the present ALASA executive administration, the editor would like to thank all our members, readers and contributors.

Enjoy reading it.

Editor:

Professor Phalandwa Abraham Mulaudzi, Deputy Chairperson: ALASA

The African Languages Association of Southern Africa is committed to promoting African Languages.

2. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA: DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

2.1. SEMINARS WITH PROF KATHLEEN HEUGH

The Research and Innovation Committee under the auspices of the Department of African Languages in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA) hosted Prof Kathleen Heugh of the University of South Australia (UniSA). The Executive Dean of the College Human Sciences, Prof A. Phillips, graced the occasion and delivered the opening address, which explicated the current language situation in the country and how the college situates itself in the aggrandisement and revalorisation of mother-tongue education. The seminars were well attended by colleagues from the Dept. of African Languages, English Studies and Linguistics and Modern Languages. Academics and students from neighbouring universities also graced the occasion. Prof Heugh presented three astute and informative papers in a series of three seminars. Prof Heugh, in person, is a language policy research specialist. She is a fecund and prolific researcher of our time. She has done research on multilingual education in 30 countries and made recommendations to UNESCO on appropriate language policies for countries in Africa and South-East Asia. Hence, she brought a wealth of knowledge that she humbly shared. In this regard, the audience remained with enduring memories of the scintillating presentations.

The Department of African Languages thanked members of the organising team unreservedly for the sterling job of organising the seminars, the venues and catering. They put their hearts and soul into the organisation, the reason why it is a success story. They deserve accolades.

Having succeeded in hosting the august occasion the Department of African Languages hopes to perpetuate the vestige



2.2 BEREAVEMENT

It is with sadness that the African language fraternity learnt of the passing of Mr Tsepo Makhetha. He joined the Department of African Languages at UNISA in 2018 as a member of the Sesotho Language Section. At the time of his death, he had contributed immensely to writing and compilation of study guides in Sesotho.

At the time of his death, he had contributed immensely to writing and compilation of study guides in Sesotho. We acknowledged him, as a workhorse in the Language Section. Like one of those Christians who would be born again and surrender their lives to Jesus, he in his own way surrendered his life to the Language Section. He became its mainstay as he committed himself to tasks. As a member of the academic fraternity, he also promoted himself academically, as he had just submitted a second master's dissertation for examination. We will remember him as a beautiful soul who was prepared to learn and take instructions. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

3. UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

3.1 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Department of African Languages at UP, in collaboration with Wits (Department of African Languages) and UKZN (Department of Gender Studies) hosted a successful international conference titled “Thetha Sizwe: Intersections, Practices, and Identities-Rethinking Gender in African Languages and Literature”. Prof Mpume Zondi attended an international conference in Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania. The conference was organised by New Directions in Humanities Research Network. She read a paper which focused on gender-based violence as one of the social ills that African authors need to address in their literary works. Profs. Prinsloo and Taljard read papers at a Globalex workshop in Miyazaki, Japan and the ICL20 conference in Cape Town. Prof Prinsloo read joint papers at the Afrilex conference at UWC with Dr. F. Sebolela and Mr. T. Theletsane. Prof Taljard and Ms. Michelle Goosen read a joint paper at Afrilex and Prof. Prinsloo gave a number of lectures on African language lexicography at the Guandong University of Finance in Guangzhou, China. Ms. Nomadlozi Bokaba and Dr. Sponono Mahlangu attended and read papers at a number of conferences during the year, e.g. Afrilex, Asialex, Thetha Sizwe and the African Languages Development Symposium.

3.2 PROMOTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms. Lungile Mncwango obtained an MA-degree in African Languages in April and Ms. Michelle Goosen, a part-time staff member, was awarded her MA degree in Applied Linguistics during the September graduation ceremony. One of our students received a D.Litt. in African Languages and 3 other students, their Masters’ degrees.

Prof Prinsloo received honorary membership from Afrilex and has been on the Board of this association for 23 years.

3.3 ADVERTISED VACANCIES AND RETIREMENTS

Dr. Refilwe Ramagoshi retired at the end of 2017 and has taken up a position as Vice President for Scientific Research at the Hebei Foreign Studies University in Hebei, China.

Prof D J Prinsloo who has been a member of the Department for the past 42 years is retiring at the end of 2018 but will continue his research and teaching activities for a contract period of one year.

A position for lecturer in Setswana has recently been advertised but to date no appointment has been made.

3.4 OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Prof. Mpume Zondi was appointed as the new head of the Department in 2016.

The Department entered into an agreement with the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR) as its digitisation node for text, audio and video resources of African languages with Profs. Taljard and Prinsloo as the node managers.

Prof Taljard is the editor of Lexikos for 2018, which will be the joint responsibility of Profs. Prinsloo and Dion Nkomo in 2019.

4. RHODES UNIVERSITY

NEWS FROM: AFRICAN LANGUAGE STUDIES SECTION & NRF SARChI CHAIR IN THE INTELLECTUALISATION OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES MULTILINGUALISM AND EDUCATION (RHODES UNIVERSITY)

4.1 STAFF NEWS

Professor Russell H Kaschula (NRF SARChI Chair) was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Research Award at the annual Rhodes University Graduation held in April 2018. He also supervised a further 4 PhD students and 2 MA students, both with distinction. Currently there are 14 MA students that are registered and 23 PhD students as well as 4 post-doctoral fellows.

As part of the award Prof Kaschula was requested to deliver an open lecture which was presented on 16 October 2018, entitled "One Language, One Humanity, One Love?" The lecture was well received across the university and beyond.

Prof Kaschula presented papers at the following conferences:

- 1st Regional Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (April 2018)
- Humour Conference in South Carolina, USA (May 2018)
- 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (July 2018).
- 9th World Congress of African Linguistics Conference, Rabat Morocco (August 2018), co-authored with Prof Dion Nkomo.
- Prof Kaschula was also a Keynote speaker at the SAFOS conference at University of Zululand (September 2018).

His most recent 2018 publications appeared in the journal *Current Writing* as well as a co-authored article with Dr GV Mona in *SAJAL*.

Dr Ntosh Mazwi, who was awarded her PhD in 2017 was in 2018 promoted to Senior Lecturer in the African Language Studies Section, School of Languages and Literature.

Dr Mazwi presented a paper at the 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town South Africa (July 2018).

Dr Mhlobo Jadezweni continued to serve on a number of Boards, while Professor Ncedile Saule joined us as a leave replacement and Mr Msindisi Sam took sabbatical in order to proceed with his PhD degree on Human Language Technology and the teaching of isiXhosa. Prof Dion Nkomo presented papers in South Africa and abroad and has become a leading figure in lexicography and translanguaging. The section continued to be ably led by Mrs Bulelwa Nosilela.

4.2 POST-DOCTORAL NEWS

The African Languages Section has three post-doctoral fellows working with Prof Kaschula and Prof Nkomo: Dr Peter Mose, Dr Micheal Kretzer and Dr Emmanuel Sithole attended a number of conferences, including ALASA and they produced a number of articles in journals and book chapters. Dr Mkhize presented a paper in USA and was nominated to the ALASA Executive Board.

4.3 PHD NEWS

Ms Zakeera Docrat graduated with her master's degree in African Languages at the recent Rhodes University Graduation in April 2018. Her MA was awarded with DISTINCTION.

Zakeera has won three awards in 2018 these include:

- 2018 South African Women in Science Award: Albertina Sisulu Doctoral Fellowship for the Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - African Languages Association of Southern Africa Award for the most outstanding MA thesis in Southern Africa.
 - Mail & Guardian 2018 Young South Africans in the category of Justice and Law.
- Zakeera produced three book chapters which have been accepted for publication in:
- New Frontiers in Forensic Linguistics: Themes and Perspectives in Language and the Law by Monwabisi K Ralarala, Russell H Kaschula & Georgina Heydon (eds), African Sun Media;
 - African Languages in Knowledge Societies: The Transformative Power of Languages by Russell H Kaschula & H Ekkehard Wolff (eds), Cambridge University Press.

Zakeera presented papers at the following conferences:

- 1st Regional Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (April 2018)
- 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (July 2018).
- 9th World Congress of African Linguistics Conference, Rabat Morocco (August 2018).

Ms Caroline Laine presented a paper at the following conference:

- 1st Regional Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (April 2018)

Ms Joy Joseph presented papers at a number of conferences including ALASA as well as in the USA.

Ms Nathalia von Witt and Ms Snethemba Mavuso have been selected to undertake their PhDs as part of the Rhodes/Belgium KU Leuven Doctoral Research Programme. They will be housed in Belgium for a period of two years. Their research investigates communication gaps in the healthcare sector, and they are supervised by Profs Kaschula and Luyten from KU Leuven.

Both Nathalia and Snethemba presented papers at the following conference:

- 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (July 2018).

4.4 MA NEWS

Ms Babalwa Resha won two awards at the Rhodes - Investec Top 100 Awards which recognises significant contribution by students in the categories of community engagement and student involvement.

Mr Philasande Mfaba presented a paper at SAFOS 2018.

Philasande also had his multilingual poetry accepted for publication by Via Afrika/ALASA joint publishing initiative.

Philasande was recently elected as the student nominee of the Rhodes University Language Committee.

Mr Mlamli Diko presented a paper at the following conference:

- 19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (July 2018).

4.5 GENERAL NEWS

The NRF SARChI Chair co-hosted the 1st Regional Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists Conference which was held at CPUT in Cape Town in April 2018. This was a joint initiative between Professors Kaschula and Ralarala.

As part of the Honours degree in African Languages, a new module was offered in the second semester (July-November 2018) entitled Language and Law: Forensic Linguistics. The module is the first of its kind at Rhodes and examines the relationship of language (specifically African languages) in the South African legal system. It provided students with the basic training of being forensic linguists. The module was taught by Prof Kaschula and Ms Docrat.

The module saw three guest lecturers who are experts in the field of forensic linguistics/ language and law guest lecturing the honours students in October. The guest lectures were presented by Prof Monwabisi Ralarala, Mr Cerneels Lourens and Mrs Annelise de Vries.

A colloquium on Forensic Linguistics was held at Rhodes University under the auspices of the NRF SARChI Chair. The colloquium was held on 19 October 2018. The colloquium theme was “The Language of Justice: A Transformational Approach”. The purpose of the colloquium was to bring together academics, legal practitioners and post-graduate students to discuss the monolingual language of record decision and how this impact on the concept of access to justice. Mr Cameron McConnachie, who is the director of the Legal Resources Centre (Grahamstown/Makhanda office) was the guest speaker. McConnachie laid bare the linguistic issues plaguing the South African legal system and how indigent people are adversely affected, by not being able to access justice in their mother tongues.

The colloquium included presentations by twelve academics, legal practitioners and post-graduate students. It was a day filled with engagement, out of which recommendations emerged which will be put forward to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. There was also consensus among the delegates that opinion pieces be written on the use of language in the legal system and the danger of having a monolingual legal system in a multilingual country; this is also to create awareness amongst the broader populace on educating persons on how to effectively enforce their constitutional language rights in. Prospective publications are being written now.

5. UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

5.1 ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

Professor Ngubane attended the 5th PAN AFRICAN WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM (PAWS) in Malawi from 3 to 5 October 2018 and presented a paper entitled, "Text Editing in Indigenous Languages in South Africa". As one of the fecund scholars of our time he was elected the Chairperson of PAWS. During the symposium, PAWS launched a book that Professor Ngubane edited with colleagues. The book is entitled; "Building Capacity for Sustainable Academic and Non-Fiction Authorship in Africa". It was published by the Uganda Textbook-Academic and Non-Fiction Authors Association. For those interested in the publication, the Association's address and website read as follows:

P.O. Box 40277 Kampala, UGANDA; www.utana-uganda.org. and the ISBN of the book is 978-9970-4280-5-2.

5.2 PROMOTION

Dr Thulani Mkhize has been appointed Senior Lecturer in English Studies at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg campus. She is one of the prolific scholars of our time whose areas of research interest are Early Black South African writing, African Feminism, Decoloniality and Contemporary African narratives.



Dr Thulani Mkhize

6. CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

6.1 CPUT LANGUAGE POLICY REVIEWED

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) reviewed its Language Policy which has been in effect since 2008. The policy as it stands promotes multilingualism and particularly ‘supports the development of isiXhosa as an academic and scientific language’, while English is the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) at the institution. The current review process seeks to continue with the same multilingual sentiment as expressed in the preceding document. The Language Working Group at CPUT invited the university community to comment on the revised document and hosted a series of workshops within faculties. The most notable workshop was held with students from different student political organisations and societies.





At this workshop on 16 October 2018 students acknowledged the promotion of multilingualism and felt that more still needed to be done to include the wider community of CPUT which consists of other South African language groups outside of the 3 main groups (Afrikaans, Xhosa and English) of the Western Cape and International students. Students respect the right to have access to one's language but not at the expense of others. Pertinent questions were raised about the disconnect in the language issue at our Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and workplace/industry.

HEIs embrace cultural and linguistic diversity, furthermore promote access to information and epistemologies using a language understood by all while industry is less transformed, especially in fields such as 'Engineering where majority are Afrikaans speaking', and this by default ends up being the language of business or communication which disadvantages the minority. More forward-looking suggestions were made, where students expressed interest in having Kiswahili as an option at CPUT. This workshop followed on the heels of the Basic Education Department's Vision 2020 announcement where it wants learners to have the option to take up Kiswahili as a second additional language.

6.2 CPUT HOSTS COPAL

The Language Policy review student workshop coincided with the meeting for the Community of Practice: Teaching and Learning of African Languages (CoPAL), under the auspices of Universities South Africa (USAF). This last meeting of the biannual series was held at CPUT with representatives from most South African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Prof. Mbulungeni Madiba (CoPAL Chairperson) set the scene for the full day event which explored ailing enrolments into post graduate programmes in African languages at various South African HEIs. As per custom, the host institution presented its synopsis of language policy implementation initiatives and an overview of African language offerings at the CPUT. This was followed by presentations from different scholars who firmly believe in the development and intellectualisation of African languages.

One major challenge in the development of African languages are beliefs that these cannot convey scientific and technological thought especially in the digital age. To curtail this problem Prof. Maseko from UWC suggested developing technology enabling tools to sustain the development, accessibility and [longevity] of African languages. Through meaningful collaborations across the African continent and internationally viable solutions can be attained in this regard. During the discussion session it was noted that more activities that attract and enhance participation of post graduate students were needed. Also, sharing good practices and relevant information among African Languages scholars can strengthen the position and contribute to the development of African languages.



7. UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE

7.1 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

A PhD was awarded to Zameka Sijadu (Lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch, Department of African Languages) on 28 June 2018. The title of the research reads: ARGUMENTATIVE DISCOURSE IN THE ISIXHOSA NOVEL INGQUMBO YEMINYANYA AND ITS ENGLISH TRANSLATION WRATH OF THE ANCESTORS: AN APPRAISAL-THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE.

This study contributes knowledge on African traditional political argumentative discourse that has received little attention especially in the understanding of the different modes of strategic manoeuvring and contextual factors which influence argumentative moves that differ significantly with the European context from which the theory draws its findings and conclusions. The strategic manoeuvring in traditional political discourse that was initially tethered to the rural context is now prevalent in the modern political government discourse. This makes future contributions to the study of argumentation in political domain possible.



8. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

CONFERENCE NEWS



8. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

9th – 11th July 2018
University of Cape Town

#AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND PROTEST

This report captures a 2 ½ -day joint conference programme, including opening remarks, keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops as well as interactive dialogues at the conference under the theme #African Languages in Protest. The conference was hosted by the School of Languages and Literatures and the Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi) at the University of Cape Town (UCT). It took place on the 9th to the 11th of July in 2018, at the River Club in Observatory, Cape Town. The 2018 conference was a special conference as it was the first time for the International Conference on Bantu languages to be hosted by an African institution. It was indeed a fruitful and rewarding exchange of ideas as well as an opportunity for networking.

The conference brought together speakers from all over the world presenting on a number of topics responding to the call to protest marginalization of African languages in South Africa and beyond. Conference participants tackled the challenges from a number of angles: Education, Health, Law, Literature, Culture, History, Media just to mention a few.



Countries represented



Professor David Wardle

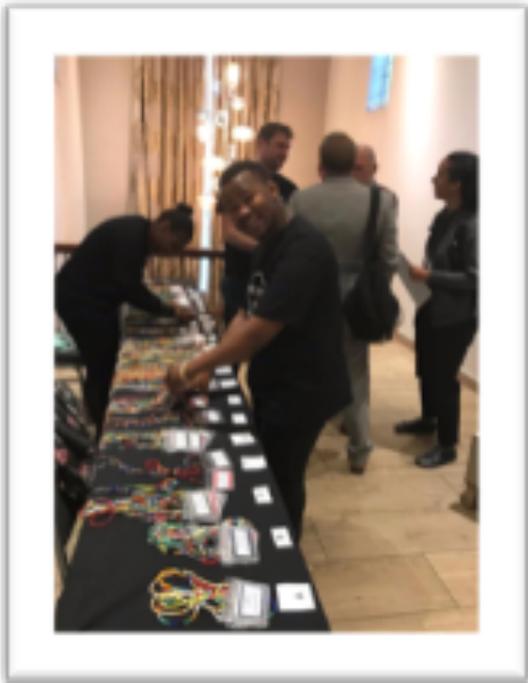
On the 9th of July 2018, the first welcome note was delivered by the Acting Dean of Humanities at UCT, Professor David Wardle. Professor Wardle delivered a warm welcome note and also reflected on his role as a former Director of the School of languages and literatures and, a colleague who specializes in the field of Roman imperial history and historiography which he combines with an interest in ancient Roman religion. Prof Wardle noted the number of countries represented and highlighted the importance of networking with scholars from other areas of the world. university.

In line with the theme of the conference, including the recent students' protests at UCT, he explained the decision to host the conference outside the university.

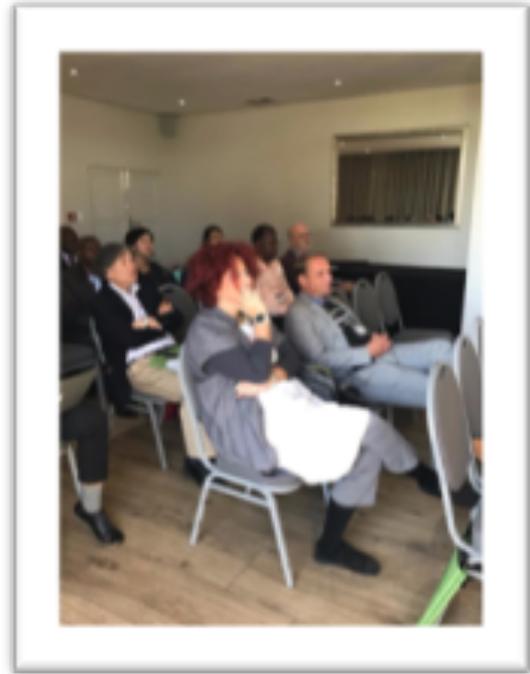


Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng Introduced by Ms Somi Deyi

Professor mamokgethi Phakeng, the Vice Chancellor of UCT welcomed the delegates on the second day of the Conference. Professor Phakeng noted that in 2013 she opened the ALASA conference at UNISA and that she was thrilled that as a brand-new chancellor she would welcome delegates but also challenge speakers of African languages to stop marginalising their own languages. Drawing from her background as a Mathematics and Setswana major- Professor Phakeng emphasised the need for speakers of African languages to be at the forefront of promoting African languages. She further pointed out her disappointment when she looked at the call for papers as well as the ALASA website which were only available in English.



Post-graduate Students at Registration Desk



Professors Lutz Marten & Ana Deumert
Prof Lutz Marten- the founding Chair and current Chairperson of SINTU welcomed all the distinguished local and international participants and encouraged them to exchange their research findings.

He further pointed out that the first visit to the African continent also came with the first use of the name, SINTU- which is a result of reflections on the colonial history of Africa. The choice of the name SINTU, to replace Bantu is one of the ways of addressing colonial legacies through academic discourses



Professor Monwabisi Ralarala

Welcome messages by Chairpersons

The chairperson of ALASA, Professor Monwabisi Ralarala extended a warm welcome to the keynote speakers, Prof Ron Simango and Dr Johannes Seema and thanked them for sharing their perspectives on the theme of the conference.

Professor Ralarala also encouraged conference delegates to take advantage of the diversity and use that as an opportunity for networking and carving future collaborations. Prof also noted the number of papers reflecting on linguistic rights theme, thereby directly addressing the theme of the conference.



Prof Ron Simango

Professor Simango's keynote highlighted a rare phenomena that is evident in isiXhosa code-switching data which indicates that English has made some breakthroughs into the grammatical structure of isiXhosa- often regarded as a closed- class cross-linguistically. He also cautioned that, although there is no evidence of shifting from isiXhosa to English, there are strong indications that grammatical shift is not too

far away. Although this keynote address happened before the address by the Vice Chancellor- it somehow placed an emphasis on the theme of the conference- that of protesting contact-induced language change- albeit at a micro-level.



Dr Johannes Seema (after the conference)

Dr Johannes Seema's keynote address focused on the role of language in protest situations. He examined the use of various languages and possible interpretations. His talk highlighted the fact that as much as Indigenous African Languages are official languages like English and Afrikaans, English continues to dominate protest placards- regardless of the quality (spelling and grammar errors).

The Conference

The conference started with a meeting of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the ALASA Executive Committee. Dr Possa, being the LOC, raised a number of concerns which are covered in the main report. The aim of the meeting was to ensure that the LOC were fully prepared to start the conference the following day. Despite hiccups here and there, the LOC was ready to start the conference at 7:30 am on the 9th of July. The conference registration was smooth mainly because the postgraduate students who worked on the programme and the registration list were well prepared. The majority of the tags were prepared in advance- for those delegates who registered beforehand.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, only 50 abstract books were printed although all delegates received electronic abstract books and printed programmes. The other reason for selecting the digital format was to have flexibility with changing the programme as it becomes necessary.

With a total of 152 conference delegates, the presentations were divided into 6 parallel sessions. The sessions roughly represented Literature, Theoretical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics with further subdivisions. It was not always possible to group sessions into a particular theme. Unlike in the past, the presentations were 30 min per presentation, including questions. Each panel was chaired by an expert in a particular area – where possible. We did however, request emerging scholars to chair some of the sessions.

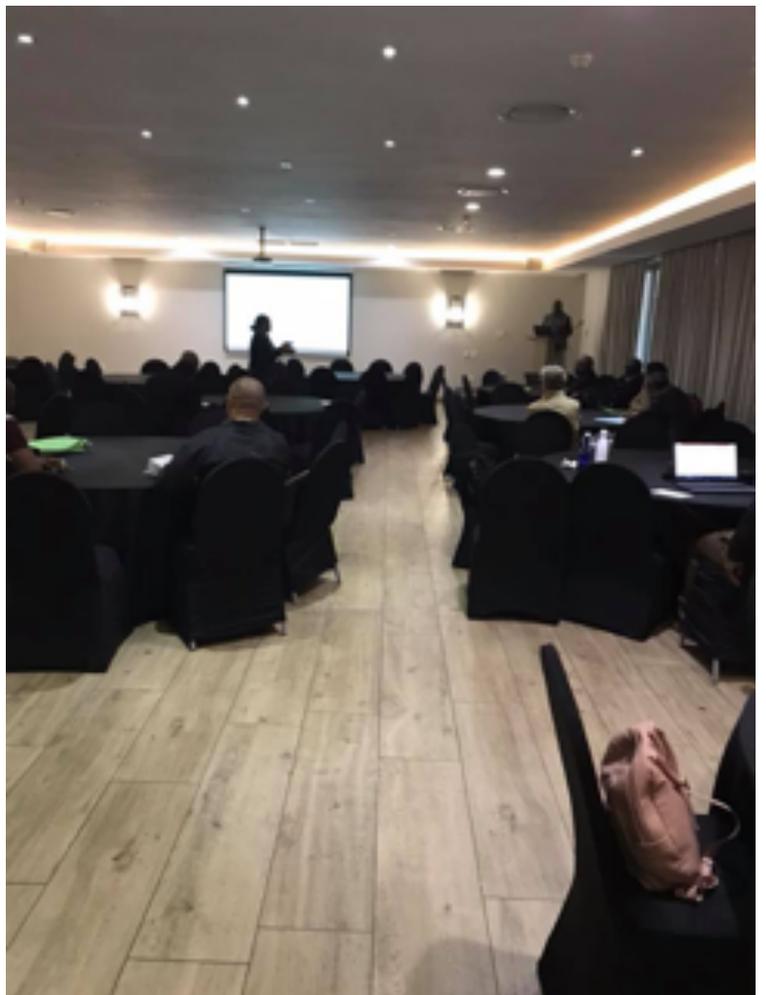
There were 3 workshops during the conference. Two on the first day and one on the second day. The workshops were slotted into a parallel session slot. The time allocated to these slots depended on the number of presentations per workshop. One workshop was on Bantu syntax, the other on teaching of foreign languages in Africa, the third one was on language development and literacy.

The papers presented represented all the subthemes of the conference. Language and law, health, media, education, language policy were the majority. The languages represented were too numerous to count but covered a wide variety of African languages.

The conference ran for 2 and a half days, with the last half of the third day dedicated to touring. The delegates who opted for the tour visited the main Campus, the Library, and a number of other areas on campus. Then the tour took to Table Mountain, Camps Bay and Signal Hill. We hope to see the same kind of commitment and collegiality at University of Free State in 2019. Enkosi! Siyabonga! Re a Leboha! Dankie! Enkosi! Asante Sana!









9. FROM THE SCIENTIFIC EDITOR'S DESK: SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES - Prof Inge Kosch

SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY FOR PROF PS GROENEWALD

This is a long overdue report on a special award ceremony that was held in honour of one of the winners of the ALASA prize for the best literature article that appeared in the SA Journal of African Languages in 2016. The recipient could not attend the ALASA Conference where the prizes were awarded in June 2017 at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

Profs Danie Prinsloo and Elsabé Taljard from the Department of African Languages at the University of Pretoria came with a suggestion that we arrange a special award ceremony for their former colleague, Prof PS Groenewald. We decided on the 16th of October 2017 and visited his home in Brummeria in the east of Pretoria. The small delegation kept the arrangements secret and Prof Groenewald was pleasantly surprised when we made our sudden appearance at his home. His daughter, Ria van der Merwe and Prof A Wilkes, a retired colleague from the Department of African Languages at UP, joined the group.

We proudly handed Prof Groenewald a hard copy of the SA Journal of African Languages (Volume 36, No.1) in which his article appeared and presented him with a framed certificate, acknowledging his contribution as the best in the literature category for 2016. What made this award a little more special, was that it was the first article in a long while, written in a language other than English, that was awarded the prize. The article went through two rounds of review and remained the one with the highest score.

The title of the article was:

Sendiginvloed op die Sepediversvorm – Die kerklied (Missionary influence on Sepedi verse form – The church song)

Since then, two articles written in Sesotho sa Leboa have also been awarded the prize for the best article respectively in the linguistics and literature categories. It is encouraging to see these articles being recognised as contributions worthy of this distinction and that excellence can be achieved in any language.

AWARD WINNING RETIRED PROFESSOR



PROF PS GROENEWALD WITH THE ALASA EDITOR PROF IM KOSCH

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE IS HOSTING THE ALASA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE THE SECOND WEEK OF JULY 2019. WE WISH DR EN MALETE AND HIS TEAM ALL THE BEST IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE THE CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

COMMITMENT

The African Languages Association of Southern Africa is committed to promoting African Languages.
THE END.