

Lexikos 19 Supplement

Abstracts / Keywords

Artikels / Articles

Linguistic Theory in the Practical Lexicography of the African Languages 1-15

Emmanuel Chabata

Abstract: In this article, we look at the relationship between linguistics and lexicography. We specifically look at the relevance of data derived from theoretical linguistic investigations to the compilation of dictionaries in African languages. Our point of departure is that since it is language description that lies at the core of both lexicography and linguistic theory, lexicographers can improve their work by using insights from theoretically-guided linguistic investigations. Our view is that as long as lexicographers focus on words and their existence in the linguistic system, they cannot work effectively without referring to linguistic theory, consciously or unconsciously. Lexicography is not only concerned with dictionary creation, that is, with the collection of lexical units and their proper description in dictionary entries, but also with the theoretical aspects concerning the lexicon. It is necessary for dictionaries to capture all lexical interrelationships of a phonetic, morphological, syntactic or semantic nature. Drawing examples from a few dictionaries on African languages, we try to show how dictionary compilers have benefited from specific theoretical investigations in general linguistics. We look at how the different linguistic theories have contributed to the improvement in the quality of the contents of some dictionaries of African languages. Our conclusion is that there is a stronger bond between linguistic theory and lexicographic practice than is generally assumed. Ways must therefore be found to understand the various links between the two disciplines. There should be a deliberate move from mutual neglect to collaboration between the two disciplines.

Keywords: AFRICAN LANGUAGES, DICTIONARY, GRAMMATICAL CATEGORISATION, HEADWORD SELECTION, LEXICAL MEANING, LEXICOGRAPHER, LEXICOGRAPHY, LINGUIST, LINGUISTICS, LINGUISTIC THEORY, PRACTICAL LEXICOGRAPHY, TONE MARKING

Users, User-Friendliness and Projected Uses of *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele*: An Analysis 16-25

Langa Khumalo

Abstract: This article discusses the first-ever monolingual general Ndebele dictionary, *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* (henceforth the ISN) within the context of the history of lexicography and the compilation of dictionaries in Ndebele. It further assesses the scope of the dictionary with regard to its structure. It also discusses decisions taken by the editors during the writing of the ISN in an attempt to compile a user-friendly dictionary primarily aimed at secondary schools and the general Ndebele population. The assumptions of the editors, coming from a non-existing lexicographic tradition, were mainly based on their experiences and intuitions as Ndebele mother-tongue speakers, educators and language practitioners. The article also accounts for four major uses of the dictionary.

Keywords: TARGET USER, USER-FRIENDLY, CORPUS, FRONT MATTER, BACK MATTER

Divergent Approaches to Corpus Processing: The Need for Standardisation 26-37

Esau Mangoya

Abstract: This article discusses some problems encountered in the processing of the Shona corpus. Most of the problems deal with the handling of adoptives, punctuation and individuals' idiolects. It also discusses the problem ensuing from an attempt to standardise the formats used in the handling of the corpus. The way a corpus is processed is critical in determining its quality. This article aims to show how the different linguistic backgrounds of the processors affect the appreciation of some vital aspects of the corpus. One of the acclaimed advantages of a corpus is that it allows research to be done on natural language. An ideal corpus should be a body of texts combined in a principled way to become a reliable language bank from which researchers retrieve data for various research purposes. With a good corpus, data can be provided giving an authoritative body of linguistic evidence which can support generalisations and against which hypotheses can be tested. As this proves the invaluable status of a corpus, the article assesses the processing of the Shona corpus and discusses how some aspects of the processing may impact negatively on its quality.

Keywords: CORPUS, STANDARDISATION, DATA, HEADWORD, LEXICOGRAPHY, RETRIEVE, TRANSCRIBE, TAGGING, ENCODING, PARSING, DIVERGENT

The Microstructure of *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* 38-50
Mandlenkosi Maphosa and Dion Nkomo

Abstract: This article analyses the microstructure of *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele*. The analysis takes place on two levels: the level of availability of information and the level of accessibility of the available information to dictionary users. Data derived from two outreach exercises carried out to ascertain users' perspectives on the dictionary and their competence in using the dictionary is also scrutinised while the notion of user-friendliness and the general principles of dictionary-making form the framework within which the analysis is done.

Keywords: DICTIONARY, DICTIONARY INFORMATION, DICTIONARY STRUCTURE, MICROSTRUCTURE, MACROSTRUCTURE, DICTIONARY CULTURE, REFERENCE NEEDS, REFERENCE SKILLS, ACCESSIBILITY, USER-FRIENDLINESS

Not Mere Lexicographic Cosmetics: The Compilation and 51-70
Structural Features of *Isichazamazwi SezoMculo*
Nobuhle Moyo and Dion Nkomo

Abstract: This article offers a brief overview of the compilation of the Ndebele music terms dictionary, *Isichazamazwi SezoMculo* (henceforth the ISM), paying particular attention to its structural features. It emphasises that the reference needs of the users as well as their reference skills should be given a determining role in all lexicographic decisions leading to the publication of a dictionary. Dictionary structure should, therefore, be conceived and evaluated in terms of its data constituents and the accessibility of these data. Accordingly, this article demonstrates that the structure of the ISM is not a case of mere cosmetics but a lexicographic mode of communication between the dictionary compilers and users who are participants in a lexicographic communication process. In this way, the article highlights some of the challenges encountered during the compilation of the ISM and the strategies the compilers employed to facilitate the communication process between the lexicographers and the users regarding dictionary contents and the arrangement thereof. From such a perspective, this article may provide useful insights for LSP lexicography in African languages, prospects of which are based on the increased need for knowledge acquisition and dissemination as well as the multilingual nature of African societies.

Keywords: LSP LEXICOGRAPHY, DICTIONARY STRUCTURE, MEGASTRUCTURE, MACROSTRUCTURE, MICROSTRUCTURE, MEDIUMSTRUCTURE, REFERENCE NEEDS, REFERENCE SKILLS, OUTER TEXTS, LEMMATA, DICTIONARY ARTICLE

Sense Relations in the Treatment of Meaning in *Isichazamazwi* 71-85
SesiNdebele
Eventhough Ndlovu

Abstract: This article evaluates how meaning has been treated in *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* (2001) through the application of the sense relations hyponymy, meronymy and synonymy. It attempts to establish the adequacy of meaning presentation in definitions given to headwords. It assesses how the application of sense relations contributes to the user-friendliness of the definitions, the accessibility of the dictionary contents and the semantic analysis of lexemes in dictionaries. It aims to give insights that will help refine and improve future dictionary definitions. The article reveals that hyponymy and meronymy facilitate the formulation of more user-friendly and accessible dictionary definitions. On the other hand, synonym definitions reduce the user-friendliness and accessibility of the definitions in dictionary types that are not dictionaries of synonyms. As dictionary making is a part or a form of standardizing a language, it ought to be as accurate as possible in the presentation of semantic facts which is a reflection of the cultural values and ideologies of the society.

Keywords: HYPONYMY, MERONYMY, SYNONYMY, USER-FRIENDLY, ACCESSIBILITY, DEFINING FORMAT, DEFINING PRINCIPLE, CIRCULARITY, ONOMASIOLOGICAL, SEMASIOLOGICAL, CROSS-REFERENCING

The Treatment of Borrowed Nouns in *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* 86-101
and *Isichazamazwi SezoMculo*
Eventhough Ndlovu

Abstract: This article focuses on the lemmatisation of vowel-commencing borrowed nouns and the allocation of borrowed nouns to noun class prefixes in *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele*, the first monolingual general-purpose Ndebele dictionary, and *Isichazamazwi SezoMculo*, the first specialised Ndebele dictionary of musical

terms. It adopts a comparative approach, also highlighting the controversies surrounding the status of the initial vowel of the prefix or the pre-prefix in Ndebele and other Nguni languages. It further looks at the challenges and limitations of lemmatising the noun using either the initial vowel of the prefix or the initial letter of the noun stem. It is found that there are some inconsistencies in the lemmatisation of vowel-commencing borrowed nouns and the allocation of borrowed nouns to noun class prefixes in the two dictionaries. These inconsistencies impact negatively on the standardisation and treatment of borrowed nouns.

Keywords: LEMMATISATION, MICROSTRUCTURE, MACROSTRUCTURE, USER-PREFERENCE, USER-PERSPECTIVE, USER-FRIENDLY, ACCESSIBILITY, REDUNDANCY, NOUN STEM, NOUN CLASS PREFIX, AUGUMENT, PREFIX PROPER, BORROWED NOUN

Projekte / Projects

Looking beyond Meaning in the *Advanced Ndebele Dictionary* 102-111
Langa Khumalo

Abstract: It is an established view in lexicography that the most important function of early dictionaries was to provide information on the meaning of words of a particular language. Over the years, tendencies have emerged with modern dictionaries providing detailed linguistic information resulting in more informative dictionaries. This article discusses the presentation of grammatical information, pronunciation, tone marking and usage labels and the structure and content of the back matter in the prospective *Advanced Ndebele Dictionary* (henceforth AND), which will be a successor to *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* (2001), the first-ever monolingual dictionary in Ndebele.¹ It is therefore the inclusion of this additional information that is examined in this article. The AND is still restricted to the planning stages. The work that has been done on the dictionary has been confined to academic articles about the dictionary's structure and content. The current article is a third instalment on the AND following on Khumalo 2003 and 2007.

Keywords: ADVANCED NDEBELE DICTIONARY, GRAMMATICAL INFORMATION, MEANING, TONE MARKING, PRONUNCIATION, USAGE LABELS, BACK MATTER

The Compilation of a Shona Children's Dictionary: Challenges and Solutions 112-119
Peniah Mabaso

Abstract: This article outlines the challenges encountered by the African Languages Research Institute (ALRI) team members in the compilation of the monolingual Shona Children's Dictionary. The focus is mainly on the problems met in headword selection. Solutions by the team members when dealing with these problems are also presented.

Keywords: SHONA CHILDREN'S DICTIONARY, LOANWORDS, TABOO, HEADWORD SELECTION, SLANG, TONE MARKING, ILLUSTRATIONS, SYNONYMS, VARIANTS

Target Users' Expectations versus the Actual Compilation of a Shona Children's Dictionary 120-133
Esau Mangoya

Abstract: The article discusses the challenges that confronted the team of compilers working on the monolingual Shona Children's Dictionary (henceforth SCD). It looks at the active involvement of the target users in shaping the project and discusses the considerations for the implementation of their recommendations. Matters of concern include issues of headword selection, especially problems of dialect representation in the dictionary. The article also discusses the inclusion of grammatical information such as tone marking. The SCD is one of the many efforts to promote and raise the functions of the indigenous languages in Zimbabwe. Of special interest in this article is therefore the discussion on the inclusion of international words like those denoting weight, distance and mathematical and scientific concepts. The article also considers the treatment of taboo words in the SCD, which takes into account that society has to open up culturally to be able to unequivocally view some of the aspects of life with which present-day children are confronted. The article lastly discusses how a balance was reached for accommodating the target users' proposal for the inclusion of an elaborate back matter in view of the limited available scope and space of the SCD.

Keywords: TARGET USERS, DIALECT REPRESENTATION, INTERNATIONAL WORDS, TABOO WORDS, TONE MARKING, BACK MATTER, DICTIONARY, LEXICOGRAPHY

Duramazwi reDudziramutauro neUvaranomwe against the Background of Shona Lexicography
Gift Mheta and Maxwell Kadenge 134-143

Abstract: This article considers and analyses *Duramazwi reDudziramutauro neUvaranomwe* (henceforth DRU), a 2007 product of the University of Zimbabwe's African Languages Research Institute (ALRI). It evaluates DRU which is the first terminological dictionary dealing with Shona literary and linguistic terms. Furthermore it traces the compilation process of this dictionary, describing the stages of collection, selection, entry and definition of terms. It also examines the microstructure and the macrostructure of DRU aimed at target users who are both students and teachers in high schools and tertiary institutions offering Shona as a subject or course.

Keywords: BILINGUAL, COLLECTION, COMPILATION, COMPUTATIONAL, CORPUS, DEFINITION, DEVELOPMENT, ENTRY, HEADWORD, LEXICOGRAPHY, LINGUISTIC, LITERARY, MACROSTRUCTURE, MICROSTRUCTURE, MONOLINGUAL, SELECTION, TERMINOLOGY

Leksikonotas / Lexiconotes

The Treatment of Encyclopedic Information in *Duramazwi reMimhanzi*
Gift Mheta 144-149

Abstract: This article presents the problems and challenges of dealing with encyclopedic information in Shona lexicography. According to Zgusta (1971: 198), encyclopedic dictionaries are primarily concerned with the denotata of the lexical units. They give information about the extra-linguistic world, physical or non-physical. In other words, encyclopedic dictionaries contain extensive information on lexical entries. The article focuses on how such encyclopedic information is collected, selected, entered and treated. Emphasis is on identifying the problems and challenges experienced by lexicographers at the four main stages of dictionary making. It also presents solutions to the encountered difficulties. It brings out discernible patterns in the treatment of encyclopedic information. The analysis, from the collection stage up to the treatment stage, is done with reference to the relatively long history of compiling linguistic dictionaries in Shona.

Keywords: ENCYCLOPEDIA, COLLECTION, TREATMENT, ENTRY, ETYMOLOGY, ILLUSTRATION, LEXICOGRAPHY, LINGUISTIC DICTIONARY, MUSIC, SELECTION

The Use of Loan Translation as a Term-Creation Strategy in *Duramazwi reMimhanzi*
Gift Mheta and Itai Muhwati 150-156

Abstract: The article presents loan translation as one of the key strategies that lexicographers at the African Languages Research Institute (ALRI) employed in the creation of new terminology during the compilation of the music dictionary *Duramazwi reMimhanzi*. Inspired by the authors' keen interest in lexicography and active involvement in the compilation of *Duramazwi reMimhanzi*, it discusses the advantages and disadvantages of loan translation. Analysis of this term-creation strategy is done using Chimhundu's (1996) translation and terminology development theory known as the scan and balance theory.

Keywords: COINAGE, CULTURE, DECODING, ENCODING, STRATEGY, TERM-CREATION, TRANSLATION, LOAN TRANSLATION

Phonological Adaptation of Borrowed Terms in *Duramazwi reMimhanzi*
Gift Mheta and William Zivenge 157-165

Abstract: This article analyses the phonological characteristics of Shona musical terms borrowed from English. It discusses the phonological processes that take place when words are borrowed directly or indirectly from English. Essentially, the article analyses the adoption and adaptation of Shona loan-words at phonological level. It draws examples from the dictionary of Shona musical terms *Duramazwi reMimhanzi* (2005). This exploration of loan-word adaptation enhances the understanding of the phonological changes that the musical terms undergo during the borrowing process.

Keywords: ADOPTION, ADAPTATION, EPENTHESIS, CONSONANT, LEXICOGRAPHY, MUSIC, PHONEME, PHONOLOGY, SUBSTITUTION, VOWEL

Affirming Verb Lexemes in *A Practical Ndebele Dictionary* and in *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele: The Case of -wa Verbs*
Jerry Zondo 166-174

Abstract: Both *A Practical Ndebele Dictionary* (1971) by Pelling and *Isichazamazwi SesiNdebele* (2001) by Hadebe et al. lemmatize a number of **-wa**-ending verbs. Each one of the verbs is easily recognizable as a canonical or base form from which different word forms can be derived. Indeed they should all be seen as legitimate headwords that have been carefully selected for entry until a keener observation as presented in this article, questions the validity of the inclusion. It would be understood from both compilers that all the verbs entered are by virtue of their being legitimate verb bases. Since the verbs ending with **-wa** are canonical forms, they should be inflected with **-iw-/ -w-**, the passive extension morpheme, and by any other extension morphemes. When **-iw-/ -w-** cannot inflect directly, the usual initial inflection to causative or applicative and then to passive should then apply. When **-iw-/ -w-** cannot apply, it is likely that the headword in question is in fact a passive form already derived from another base form. The article argues that these words cannot claim to be legitimate headwords. The article further observes that other verb endings treated can be similarly tested and treated accordingly. Possibly headword selection will then be more consistent and characterized by a more considered and reasoned approach.

Keywords: BASE FORM, CANONICAL FORM, DICTIONARY ENTRY, DERIVATION, HEADWORD, INFLECTION, PREDICTABILITY, SELECTION, STYLIZED VERBAL EXTENSION