

LANGUAGE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA
A CASE STUDY OF THE XITSONGA LANGUAGE
BOARD

BY

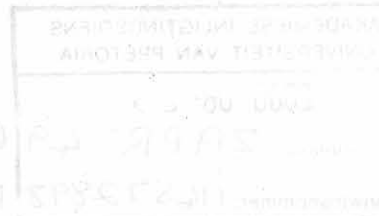
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SUMMARY

In recent history South Africa has witnessed an unparalleled social change that culminated in the 1994 first democratic elections. This change has affected almost all aspects of society. Collective behaviour, improved educational facilities for the previously disadvantaged communities, more widespread participation by all groups in the economy, rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and manifesting technological advance all testify to changing social norms. In areas of management South Africa is shifting away from a centralised style of management. The centralised style of management was driven by the ideology of the colonial powers of the time.

One area of management which has had to undergo transformation in the country is that of language management. Colonial and Apartheid language policy gave rise to a hierarchy of unequal languages which reflected the racial and class inequality that characterised the South African society before the advent of democracy. An analysis of language management in South Africa was necessary so as to determine what language management could do to correct the past imbalances and the existing asymmetric power relations between the languages of the country.

This study therefore, examines language management in different eras, viz: The Pre-Bantu education era, the Bantu education era and the Post Bantu education era. The following factors have been identified as factors that influence language management in South Africa: The language(s) to be managed, structures set up to manage the languages, organisation of the structures and the effectiveness of the structures.

In order to analyse the factors identified in context, the Xitsonga Language Board was chosen as a case study in the management of one of South Africa's minority languages – Xitsonga. The different phases of the Board are examined in order to determine its achievements and failures. Minutes of the Xitsonga Language Board and the questionnaire technique were used to collect the data required. The study discovers that while South Africans want a language management structure, the general feeling is that such structure should be free from political manipulation in order to adequately and effectively address the imbalances of the past and the existing a-symmetric power relations between the languages of the country.

Also discussed in this study, are the structures that replaced the Language Boards. It is hoped that such a discussion will illuminate the direction issues of language management will take in future.

KEY WORDS

Xitsonga

Tsonga

Minority language

Language management

Language Committee

Language Board

Language Specific Committee

Provincial Language Committee

PAN South African Language Board

Northern Province Language Committee

OPSOMMING

In die onlangse geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika, is 'n ongeëwenaarde sosiale verandering waargeneem, wat met die eerste demokratiese verkiesing van 1994 'n toppunt bereik het. Hierdie verandering het byna alle aspekte van die gemeenskap beïnvloed. Kollektiewe gedrag, verbeterde opvoedkundige fasiliteite vir voorheen benadeelde gemeenskappe, groter, wydverspreide deelname deur alle groepe in die ekonomie, snelle verstedeliking, industrialisasie en gemanifesteerde tegnologiese vooruitgang, dien alles as getuieis tot veranderende sosiale norme. In areas van bestuur, is Suid-Afrika besig om weg te beweeg van 'n gesentraliseerde bestuurstyl. Die gesentraliseerde bestuurstyl is deur die ideologie van die koloniale magte van die tyd meegebring.

Een area van bestuur wat in die land 'n proses van transformasie moes deurmaak, is dié van taalbestuur. Die taalbeleid van die koloniale- en Apartheidsjare het aanleiding gegee tot 'n hiërargie van ongelyke tale, wat die ras- en klasongelykheid wat so kenmerkend was van die Suid-Afrikaanse gemeenskap voor die advent van demokrasie, weerspieël het. 'n Analise van taalbestuur in Suid-Afrika was nodig, ten einde te bepaal wat taalbestuur kan doen om die wanbalans van die verlede en die bestaande a-simmetriese magsverhoudinge tussen die tale van die land, te korrigeer.

Hierdie studie bestudeer dus, taalbestuur op verskillende tereine, naamlik: Die Pre-Bantoe-onderwys-era, die Bantoe-onderwys-era en die laaste Bantoe-onderwys-era. Die volgende faktore is geïdentifiseer as faktore wat taalbestuur in Suid-Afrika beïnvloed, naamlik: Die taal(tale) wat bestuur moet word, strukture wat opgerig is om die tale bestuur, organisasie van die strukture en effektiwiteit van die strukture.

Ten einde die faktore wat in konteks geïdentifiseer is, te analiseer, is die Xitsonga taalraad gekies as 'n gevallestudie in die bestuur van een van Suid-Afrika se minderheidstale – Xitsonga. Die verskillende fases van die Raad word bestudeer ten einde sy suksesse en mislukkinge te bepaal. Notules van die Xitsonga-taalraad en die vraelystegniek is gebruik om die inligting wat verlang is, te versamel. Die studie lei tot die gevolgtrekking dat terwyl Suid-Afrikaners graag 'n struktuur vir taalbestuur wil hê, die algemene gevoel is dat so 'n struktuur los behoort te wees van politieke manipulasie, ten einde die wanbalans van die verlede en die bestaande a-simmetriese magsverhoudinge tussen die tale van die land, aan te spreek.

Die strukture wat die taalrade vervang het, word ook in hierdie studie bespreek. Dit word vertrou dat so 'n bespreking die rigting wat taalbestuurkwesties in die toekoms sal aanneem, sal toelig.

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Tsonga

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Pan Suid-Afrikaanse Taalraad

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANC:	African National Congress
IFP:	Inkatha Freedom Party
LANGTAG:	Language Plan Task Group
LiCCA:	Language in Contact and Conflict in Africa
PAC:	Pan African Congress
PANSALB:	Pan South African Language Board
XPP:	Ximoko Progressive Party

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GENERAL ORIENTATION AND INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The language of the Xitsonga people is a Bantu language spoken in the north-eastern part of Southern Africa. It is a member of the Xitsonga language group, which is part of the larger Xitsonga language family. The Xitsonga language is spoken by approximately 1.5 million people in the Xitsonga region of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The Xitsonga language is a tonal language, meaning that the pitch of the voice is used to distinguish between different words and phrases. This is a characteristic feature of many Bantu languages. The Xitsonga language has a rich vocabulary and a complex grammar. It is a highly expressive language and is used for a wide range of purposes, from everyday communication to formal education and religious services.

The Xitsonga language has a long history and has been the subject of extensive research. The first written records of the Xitsonga language date back to the 19th century. Since then, many scholars have studied the Xitsonga language and its grammar, phonology, and semantics.

In this study, the Xitsonga language is examined from a linguistic perspective. The focus is on the use of tone to differentiate meaning in the Xitsonga language. This is a topic that has not been extensively studied in the past, and it is hoped that this study will contribute to a better understanding of the Xitsonga language and its grammar.

The study is organized into several chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the Xitsonga language and its grammar. Chapter 2 discusses the use of tone in the Xitsonga language and how it is used to differentiate meaning. Chapter 3 provides examples of Xitsonga words and phrases and shows how tone is used to distinguish between them. Chapter 4 concludes the study and discusses the implications of the findings.

As a result of this study, it is hoped that a better understanding of the Xitsonga language and its grammar will be gained. This will be particularly useful for those who are interested in the Xitsonga language and its culture. It will also be useful for those who are studying the Xitsonga language as a second language.

The Xitsonga language is a highly expressive and complex language. It is a language that has been the subject of extensive research and study. This study is a contribution to the understanding of the Xitsonga language and its grammar. It is hoped that this study will be of interest to those who are interested in the Xitsonga language and its culture.