

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC PROFILE OF MAMELODI AND
ATTERIDGEVILLE: ITS ROLE IN LANGUAGE POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL**

by

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Summary

This research project seeks to gain insight into the sociolinguistic realities of Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, two residential areas that resort under the Tshwane Metropolitan Council's jurisdiction (formerly known as the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area) - including reference to language use, knowledge, behaviour, status and attitudes. A questionnaire reflecting the principles of inter-methodological cross-validation was developed as research instrument in order to attain a sociolinguistic profile of the areas under investigation. The gathering, analysis, and verification of the research results took place against the background of extensive literature study, as well as the implementation of both quantitative (interpretation and analysis of numerical data) and qualitative (questionnaire format resembling a structured interview) methods. Other general aims of this research project are to provide local decision-makers with information that might aid the language planning process, and to provide a future basis for comparison to identify the occurrence of potential sociolinguistic change.

The planning and implementation of a local language policy cannot occur in isolation, and it is therefore necessary to set the background against which language-related decisions are made - on local and international level. The challenges faced by the South African government are inseparably linked to matters evolving around the role of language in governance, education, economy and development.

It will be argued that South Africa formally committed itself to multilingualism by entrenching it in the Constitution and in the proposed Languages Bill. It will furthermore be argued that languages have a market value and are thus to be regarded as economic resources. If the national ideals are to be met in terms of democratically developing the nation, all citizens must have equal access to all the rights and privileges of the country.

In order to realise the strategic goals listed in the proposed South African Languages Bill, namely to facilitate individual empowerment and national development, and to facilitate economic development via the promotion of multilingualism, it is thus imperative that the Tshwane Municipal Council implements and enforces language policies that reflect these goals. Since municipalities must take into account the language usage and preferences of their residents and at least use two official languages - the logical conclusion is that a plan of language policy implementation should be

supported and institutionalised by means of legislation and other measures.

The Tshwane Metropolitan Council, and all other municipal structures - by implementing reality-based language policies that meet the developmental needs of its citizens by promoting and investing in multilingualism - will ascertain equal access to knowledge and skills. The ultimate purpose of this whole debate surrounding language planning and policy implementation in a multilingual African state is not merely to arrive at a theoretical linguistic solution, but rather to meet the socio-economic developmental needs of its people.

Key terms

- Sociolinguistic profile;
- Language planning;
- Local language policies;
- Language policy implementation;
- Language attitudes;
- Proposed South African Languages Bill;
- Language in governance;
- Language in education;
- Language and economy;
- Language and development;
- Questionnaire; and
- Language audits.

Opsomming

Hierdie navorsingsprojek het ten doel om insig te verkry in die sosiolinguistiese realiteite van Mamelodi en Atteridgeville, twee residensiële areas onder die jurisdiksie van die Tshwane Metropolitaanse Raad (voorheen bekend as die Pretoria Metropolitaanse Area). Verwysing word ook gemaak na taalgebruik, -kennis, -gedrag, -status en -houdings. As navorsingsinstrument is 'n vraelys waarin die beginsels van intermetodiese kruisvalidasie toegepas word, ontwikkel om 'n sosiolinguistiese profiel van die betrokke areas saam te stel. Die versameling, analise en verifikasie van die navorsingsresultate het plaasgevind teen die agtergrond van omvangryke literatuurstudie, sowel as die toepassing van beide kwantitatiewe (interpretasie en analise van numeriese data) en kwalitatiewe (die vraelys wat ooreenkomste met 'n gestruktureerde onderhoud toon) navorsingsmetodes. Ander algemene doelwitte is om plaaslike besluitnemers van inligting te voorsien wat tot die taalbeplanningsproses kan bydra, en om 'n toekomstige basis vir vergelyking daar te stel sodat potensiële sosiolinguistiese veranderinge geïdentifiseer kan word.

Die beplanning en implementering van 'n plaaslike taalbeleid kan egter nie in isolasie plaasvind nie. Dit is daarom noodsaaklik om die agtergrond waarteen taalverwante besluite op plaaslike en internasionale vlakke geneem word, te skets. Die uitdagings wat aan die Suid-Afrikaanse regering gestel word is onlosmaaklik verbonde aan aspekte wat sentreer in die rol van taal in die regering, opvoedkunde, ekonomie en ontwikkeling.

Daar word van die standpunt af uitgegaan dat Suid-Afrika formeel verbind is tot veeltaligheid aangesien dit in die Konstitusie en die voorgestelde Taalbeleid vervat is. Daar word verder geredeneer dat tale 'n markwaarde het en dus as ekonomiese kommoditeite beskou behoort te word. Sou die nasionale ideale, wat die demokratiese ontwikkeling van die nasie voorstaan realiseer, volg dit dat alle burgers gelyke toegang tot al die regte en voorregte van die land behoort te geniet.

Om die strategiese doelwitte wat in die voorgestelde Suid-Afrikaanse Taalbeleid vervat is te realiseer, naamlik om ekonomiese bemagtiging en nasionale ontwikkeling te fasiliteer, is dit noodsaaklik dat die Tshwane Metropolitaanse Raad taalbeleid implementeer en toepas wat hierdie doelwitte reflekteer. Omrede munisipaliteite die taalgebruik en -voorkeure van hulle inwoners in ag móét neem, en ten minste twee amptelike tale

móét gebruik, is die logiese afleiding dat 'n plan van taalbeleidsimplementering deur wetgewing ondersteun en geïnstusionaliseer moet word.

Deur die bemarking van en investering in veeltaligheid sou die Tshwane Metropolitaanse Raad, sowel as ander munisipale strukture, gelyke toegang tot kennis en vaardighede verseker deur die implementering van realiteitsgebaseerde taalbeleid wat aan die ontwikkelingsbehoefte van die gemeenskap voldoen. Die uiteindelijke doel van die hele debat rondom taalbeplanning en beleidsimplementering in 'n veeltalige Afrika-staat is nie alleenlik om 'n teoretiese linguistiese oplossing te vind nie; maar om aan die sosio-ekonomiese behoeftes van die land en sy mense te voldoen.

Sleuteltermes

- Sociolinguistiese profiel;
- Taalbeplanning;
- Plaaslike taalbeleid;
- Taalbeleidsimplementering;
- Taalhoudings;
- Voorgestelde Suid-Afrikaanse Taalbeleid;
- Taal in regering;
- Taal in opvoedkunde;
- Taal en die ekonomie;
- Taal en ontwikkeling;
- Vraelys; en
- Taalnavorsing.

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