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 ongewenste 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. Kollekiewe gedrag, verbeterde opvoedkundige faciliteite vir voorheen benadeelde gemeenskappe, groter, wydverspreide deelname deur alle groepe in die ekonomie, snelle verstedeliking, industrialisasie en gemanifesteerde tegnologiese vooruitgang, dien alles as getuigenis 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 transformatie 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 klasongelykeit 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 verschillende terreine, naamlik: Die Pre-Bantoe-onderwys-era, die Bantoe-onderwys-era en die laaste Bantoe-onderwys-era. Die volgende faktore is geïdentificeer as faktore wat taalbestuur in Suid-Afrika beïnvloed, naamlik: Die taal(tale) wat bestuur moet word, stukstuk wat opgerig is om die tale bestuur, organisasie van die stukstukte en effektiwiteit van die stukstukte.

Ten einde die faktore wat in konteks geïdentificeer is, te analiseer, is die Xitsonga taalraad gekies as 'n gevallestudie in die bestuur van een van Suid-Afrika se minderheidstale – Xitsonga. Die verschillende fasies van die Raad word bestudeer ten einde sy suksesse en mislukkings 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 stukstuk vir taalbestuur wil hé, die algemene gevoel is dat so 'n stukstuk 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 stukstukte wat die taalrade vervang het, word ook in hierdie studie bespreek. Dit word vertrou dat so 'n bespreking die rigting wat taalbestuurkwessies in die toekoms sal aanneem, sal toelig.
SLEUTELWOORDE

Xitsonga
Tsonga
Minderheidstaal
Taalbestuur
Taalkomitee
Taalraad
Taalspesifieke Komitee
Proovsiale Taalkomitee
Pan Suid-Afrikaanse Taalraad
Noordelike Provinsie-Taalkomitee
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<tr>
<td>ANC:</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFP:</td>
<td>Inkatha Freedom Party</td>
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<td>LANGTAG:</td>
<td>Language Plan Task Group</td>
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<td>LiCCA:</td>
<td>Language in Contact and Conflict in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAC:</td>
<td>Pan African Congress</td>
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<td>PANSALB:</td>
<td>Pan South African Language Board</td>
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<td>XPP:</td>
<td>Ximoko Progressive Party</td>
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