



CoPAL REPORT ON LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY: __CPUT_____

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1. TEACHING & LEARNING MATTERS

Following the DHET monitoring and evaluation site visit to CPUT in February 2025, the institutional Language Working Group (LWG) held a strategic planning session to respond to the recommendations made by the visiting team. Since then, there is evidence of unprecedented progress with regard to the deliverables identified within the Teaching and Learning Goal area of the institutional funding proposal submitted to DHET for language development in 2023. In particular, requests for the translation and verification of glossaries as well as the translation of learning and teaching materials that include subject guides, programme guides, lecture notes, assignments, dissertation abstracts, chapters of prescribed texts, among others, by faculties have grown substantially.

2. TERMINONOLOGY DEVELOPMENT/GLOSSARIES

Between October 3 and October 24 in 2024, three workshops were held to verify 3 trilingual glossary lists for the courses Administrative Management, Business Computer Applications and Project management in the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences (FBMS). Two more workshops were held for two days each to verify trilingual glossaries for Chemistry in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Business Computer Applications and Project Management in FBMS. The two workshops were held between 13 and 14 March and 31 March and 1 April in 2025. Another workshop was held on 15 and 16 September this year for the verification of trilingual Ophthalmic Sciences glossaries in the Faculty of Health and Wellness Sciences. Lastly, a two-day workshop was also held for the verification of the Finance trilingual glossaries on 7-9 October 2025.

3. LANGUAGE POLICY MATTERS

CPUT's language policy was due for revision this year. Several sessions were held to carry out this process in consultation with all internal stakeholders starting from

January 2024. The revision process has now been completed. The revised draft is awaiting approval by Council.

A recommendation by the DHET team at its site visit to CPUT referred to earlier and a requirement by the institutional language policy is that faculties have their own Language Implementation Plans (LIPs) that align with that of the institution. So far, two out of the six faculties have drafted their own LIPs. The LWG is working with all the faculties to get their LIPs drafted by the end of 2025.

A commitment made by the LWG at its planning session referred to earlier was to start the process to institutionalize the translation of abstracts and summaries of theses and dissertations from English to Afrikaans and isiXhosa. This is also a requirement by the current institutional language policy. To this end, the institutional Language unit is working with the Centre for Post-Graduate Studies (CPGS) to realize this.

4. RESEARCH RELATED ACTIVITIES

During the course of 2024, the Language Unit obtained ethical clearance and institutional permission to conduct research on a number of language development areas. These included perceptions of linguistic inclusivity and diversity among students as well the usage of multilingual course guides, multilingual glossaries, multilingual teaching and assessment, multilingual tutorials etc. So far, the Language Unit has been able to work with the FBMS to collect usable research data with regard to the second area of research mentioned above. This data will be the basis of a paper to be presented at the **The Second International Conference on Languages, Multilingualism, and Decolonization Practices in Higher Education** that will be hosted by the University of the Free State on 25-27 November. Efforts are underway to translate this conference paper into an accredited journal article.

5. LANGUAGE EVENTS HOSTED/ORGANISED

In keeping with the LWG's drive to include multilingual support as part of peer support engagement, an introductory webinar on multilingual engagement was arranged by the Language Unit for the FBMS on 21 August 2024. The facilitator was an African Languages Master's student from UCT who focused on the 'concept of peer- to-peer learning through translanguaging, in order to raise awareness on the importance of identity and the diverse backgrounds students bring to the classroom, as they communicate in unique ways' (extract from the seminar brief). A similar and well attended webinar also organized by the Language Unit in collaboration with the FBMS was offered to student champions in the faculty on 14 May 2025. The facilitators for the two webinars were post graduate students from UCT. Another similar webinar was offered to tutors across the institution on 24 July 2025.

The Language Unit, in collaboration with the Language Working Group, organized a two-day in-person workshop on multilingual pedagogies for academic staff. The workshop was held on 25 – 26 September on the Bellville campus. Two reputable experts from the North-West University namely, Professor Wildsmith-Cromarty and Ms Tholakele Nkwanyana facilitated the training.

Following the in-person two-day workshop on multilingual pedagogies referred to above, the Language Unit held a repeat online session to cater for students who might have unintentionally missed the earlier workshop offered to students in the FBMS and academics who had missed the in-person two-day session referred to above. This session was also facilitated by Prof Wildsmith-Cromarty and Ms Tholakele Nkwanyana. The session was reasonably well attended. The majority of the attendees were student tutors, mentors, RO's and TA's mainly from the FBMS.

The Senate Language Committee (SLC) of the university held its annual workshop on 3 October 2024. The workshop was facilitated by Prof Tobie van Dyk from the North-West University, who is currently seconded to SADiLAR to help drive the implementation of the DHET language policy Framework for Public Higher Education institutions. In the main, the workshop created a space for the members of the SLC to reflect on CPUT's level of maturity to implement its language policy in line with the DHET language policy framework. This reflection was organized around 6 generic maturity levels of language policy implementation namely, (1) initial (2), Managed and repeatable (3) Defined (governed), (4) Quantitatively managed and (5) Optimizing in the domains of Leadership and Governance, Curriculum Development and Pedagogy, Faculty and Staff Development, Technology and ICT Integration, Student Support and Services, Cultural and Community Engagement and Quality Assurance and Evaluation. The insights gained from this engagement would be of great value towards ensuring a realistic outcome of the process to revise of the language policy in 2025.

The Language Unit has an arrangement with the Staff Development Unit at Fundani (CHED) for sessions on multilingual pedagogies for academic staff to be embedded in the Teacher Development Programme (TDP) starting from 2025. Three two-hour long sessions were allocated for this purpose. All the sessions were offered by externally invited facilitators in March and April this year. The TDP was chosen due to its evident popularity and consequent high attendance by academic staff. A further stand-alone session also offered by an externally invited expert was organized for ECP lecturers in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The workshop took place on 6 August.

The LWG hosted an event to commemorate the International Translation Day, in collaboration with PanSALB. The event was held on 27 September 2024 on the Bellville campus of CPUT. The essence of the event was presentations by three universities in the Western Cape namely, UCT, SU and CPUT on the work they had accomplished in promoting African languages through translation services, interpreting, and terminology development. Due to time constraints, it was decided that this event, together with the two-day in-person workshop on multilingual pedagogies referred to above serve the purpose of the 2024 institutional Language Indaba.

The Language Working Group held an event to celebrate the International Mother Language Day this year. The event took place on 7 March on the Bellville campus. Among others, the event provided space for all role players to showcase accomplishments on language development in particular and language policy implementation in general. Worth mentioning particularly, was the showcasing of the work accomplished within the FBMS through the Translanguaging Laboratory. Prof

Nggondi, the Dean, Faculty of Informatics and Design at CPUT and Prof Carolyn Mckinney of UCT were the keynote speakers at the event. The event was reasonably well attended and served one of its intended purposes namely, to raise internal awareness of the work done on the implementation of the language policy at the institution.

The Human Language Technologies (HLT) unit of the National Department of Sports, Arts and Culture conducted a two-day workshop on the use of its own translation software at CPUT in August this year. Requested by the Language Unit, the workshop was facilitated by 6 members of the (HLT) unit. A total of 43 CPUT staff attended the workshop on the first day while 31 attended on the second. This was a valuable workshop for the language development work that the Language Working Group is doing for the institution. The specific focus of the workshop was to demonstrate the use of the freely accessible software packages called Autshumato and OmegaT and how they are able to create translation memory that enables translators to use previously translated segments for a current translation job. Translation memory is a useful basis for corpus-based language development and research e.g., terminology extraction, Language modelling, Linguistic analysis, and language teaching, among others. One other software called CText, on which training was also provided, is a text-to-speech program which should be helpful help in the creation of audio files for our multilingual glossaries project, particularly.

This year's institutional Language Indaba was held on 10 October on the Bellville campus. Unlike those of previous years, this year's event had four invited speakers in total, three of whom were from UCT's Language Development Group (LDG) in the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) and the last from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at UWC. The three keynotes from UCT were Prof Abongwe Bangani, Dr Moeain Arend and Dr Aditi Hunma and the fourth from UWC was Prof Venicia McGhie. The theme for the event was **Enhancing language and academic literacy development through digital technology and artificial intelligence in higher education.**

The Language Unit, Centre for Diversity, Inclusivity and Social Change and the Disability Unit at CPUT are currently collaborating to arrange a week-long training on Basic Sign Language Training for staff at CPUT. This training is planned for the week of 17-21 November. The South African National Deaf Association will provide the training. This workshop is a critical step in the effort to accommodate Sign Language in learning and teaching spaces at the institution.

6. LANGUAGE RELATED PROJECT/S

The Language Unit held a three-day workshop on 27-29 November in 2024 on the Bellville campus where members of the verification and authentication committees of PanSALB assembled to verify and authenticate the isiXhosa translations of the names of the university, faculties and departments. This process was successfully completed. PanSALB has provided a certificate for the verified and authenticated names. Arrangements are underway for the translated names to be processed into signage that will subsequently be installed across the institution.

7. OTHER ACTIVITIES (IF NOT ALREADY MENTIONED ABOVE)

The Language Unit managed to revive its offering of the isiXhosa and Afrikaans conversational courses for students and staff across the 6 faculties during the second semester this year. These courses were offered in the past already but had to be put on hold due to staffing challenges. The resumption of these courses started in September this year, following a visibly growing expression of interest by members of lecturing staff. The Unit aims to continue to market and offer these courses in both the first and second semesters in 2026. The Unit will also explore available ways internally to provide certification for the completion of the course.