

SATI

South African Translators' Institute

newsletter

YOUR
LANGUAGE
CONNECTION

09 2024

NEW

Council elected

New SATI Council elected
International Translation Day 2024

Laurinda van Tonder

Laurinda van Tonder has been a proud SATI member for the last 13 years. She is an experienced interpreter who has rendered interpreting services at close to 100 events for the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and its portfolio committees, as well as various civil society organisations, private companies and universities.

As a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg with 10 years of experience as an academic, she uses her translation, editing and interpreting experience to help language practitioners-in-training master the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in language-centric professions. She is currently completing my PhD in Applied Linguistics.

Laurinda helped to plan the last three of SATI's Triennial Conferences and worked as a virtual office assistant (from 2013 to 2014) to help with the compilation of the monthly bulletin and its translation.

Laurinda is also actively involved in the South African Linguistics and Applied Linguistics Society, which promotes research excellence in the fields of language practice, linguistics and applied linguistics.

**Salomé van Niekerk**

Salomé is a project manager and the head Afrikaans linguist at RWS Africa (formerly ST Communications). Before that, she was a freelance translator and copy editor. She has been SATI-accredited for 11 years.

Salomé is passionate about training for translators in Africa, quality frameworks for low-resource languages, and translation review optimisation. Her position at RWS has given her the opportunity to grow in skill as a translator, and to work with translators and languages from all over Africa, which she enjoys immensely. She views it as a privilege to have been on both sides of the translator-LSP relationship and she learns from the translators in her team every day. Outside of work, Salomé loves yoga, walking and spending time with her young daughters.

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Johan Blaauw

Johan Blaauw is a language practitioner with some 45 years' experience. He has been a SATI member since 1985, and he has previously served on SATI's Executive/Council as secretary, vice-chair and chair, as well as in the Accreditation and Ethics Committees. He is a SATI honorary member.

He has played a role in establishing SATI's editing and interpreting accreditations, and in the physical running of the latter on behalf of SATI for approximately two decades. He can contribute to Council this experience and an extensive knowledge of the industry, also having participated since the mid-1990s in the eventual establishment of the SA Language Practitioners' Council Act and its regulations.

Johan has just completed a term on the SATI Council, during which time his experience and knowledge has been of immeasurable value. He is eligible for another term.

**Sponono Mahlangu**

Dr Katjie Sponono Mahlangu holds a BA degree with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and BA (Hons), MA and DLitt degrees with the University of Pretoria. She is the Executive Director for the isiNdebele Dictionary Unit of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) and teaches at the University of Pretoria. She describes herself as a researcher, educator, part-time lecturer, translator, interpreter, author and editor in isiNdebele.

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**Beverley Boland**

Bev studied languages and translation and went on to use those skills in the exports industry. She then trained as a language practitioner at the SA Police Service. Since 2007, she has worked freelance, focusing on sworn translation from Afrikaans into English and English editing. She worked part-time in the SATI office from 2007 to 2017, including as accreditation officer, and served one term on the Council.

Bev lives in Joburg with her husband and two sons. In her spare time, she enjoys the theatre and long walks with friends. She also co-owns a bookshop specialising in Africana and volunteers for a foundation phase literacy project.

**Dennis Mhlanga**

Dennis Mhlanga holds a post-graduate diploma in Translation and Interpretation, an honours in African Languages and Linguistics, and a master's in Translation, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Witwatersrand. He has over 13 years of experience as a language practitioner specialising in medico-legal and forensic texts, translation, editing, proofreading, and subtitling.

He has worked as a freelance language practitioner for the Gauteng Legislature and National Parliament. He is currently, a full-time associate lecturer in interpreting studies at the University of Witwatersrand.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2024

Mangosuthu University of Technology celebrated the International Translation Day on 29 and 30 September 2024, the theme being "Translation -- An art worth preserving."

It was a great honour for The South African Translators Institute (SATI) to be hosted for this event. Present was the SATI chairperson, Mr Peter Mekgwe, and fellow Council member Professor Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst, who is also affiliated with the University of Cape Town.

The event was attended by high profile people from Mangosuthu University of Technology all of who served as Speakers for the day, namely, Dr B Ntshangase (the Acting DVC of Teaching and Learning), Dr B PR Gumede, (Deputy Director of TLDC), Dr PR Gumede, (Deputy Director of TLDC), Mr Peter T. Mekgwe, (the Chairperson of the South African Translators Institute (SATI)), Ms Winnie Dube, (eThekweni Municipality Language Services), Mr Ntokozo Zulu, (Mangosuthu University of Technology), Prof Boni Zungu, (Mangosuthu University of Technolog), Mr Khumbulani Mngadi, (University of Johannesburg (UJ)), Mr Jabulani Simelane, (Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB))



Peter Mekgwe and Prof L Makhubu-Badenhorst



Mr Khumbulani Mngadi, UJ

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2024

Chairperson Peter Mekgwe was on hand to unpack what it really means for translators to preserve their translation work as the work of Art, in line with the theme of the 2024 International Translation Day.

Addressing the audience through his PowerPoint, the chair used the analogy of an Artist in real life using sharp images of Art nicely put together by artists. "Artist are very protective of their art", he said, "and for that reason, they always have warnings placed around their studios which read, 'Do not touch the Art'". The rule of no touching allows the art to speak to the public in intimate, individualised ways and preserves this window of experience for generations to come. In a similar vein, the final product of the translator's work must be in such a way that it speaks to the heart of an individual who engages with it.

The translation needs to reflect a strong cultural knowledge and understanding of a translator, the values, customs and behaviours of a specific culture. The building blocks to that effect are, as Mekgwe mentioned, the Four Pillars upon which a good translation must be built, namely, Advanced Language Knowledge, Excellent Writing Skills, Sound Research Skills, and a Serious Review Process once the work has been concluded.

All these steps closely mirror the steps of an artist who begins his work with a spark of an idea, gathering information, researching, experimenting, planning, organising the material and creating the art itself. When followed and artistically put together, they produce a translation that can stand the test of time.



SATI Chairperson during Q&A at Mangosuthu University of Technology



Dr. B Makhanya (MUT)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2024

An interesting meeting point of all presentations was about promoting South African indigenous languages so that they also can become languages of business. The only successful way of achieving that end, as said by Dr B. Ntshangase, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor at MUT, is by using them to their optimum as it has been done by some other countries like China.

The Chinese citizens use their language in every aspect of their daily business. In medicine, in technology and in any other discipline without hesitation. A huge number of students and stakeholders left the gathering imbued to go and do better in this, lest they are the ones who stifle the progress of their languages.



Seated from left to right are: Mr P Mekgwe (SATI), Ms T Cebekhulu (DSAC), Prof Boni Zungu (MUT), Prof Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst (UCT & SATI), Dr B.Ntshangase, (DVC at MUT), Dr. P Gumede (MUT), Dr B. Makhanya (MUT)

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