

Professionalising language practice



Sworn translation

Our bursary recipients

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be recognised as a distinct group on the grounds of their geographic proximity to one another or of a common interest that is acceptable to the Institute'. Chapters are formal structures of the Institute and operate in terms of a set of regulations approved by the members of the Institute. The intention of chapters is to offer members opportunities for networking and professional advancement, which can often be more readily achieved at a local rather than a national level.

Members who wish to re-establish the Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal or Interpreters Chapters should contact the SATI office. The same applies to anyone wishing to start a new chapter

The SATI constitution makes provision for members to form chapters if they wish 'to



SATI Web-site:

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(South African Translators' Institute)

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<http://www.fit-ift.org>
(International Federation of Translators)



**Journal of the South
African Translators'
Institute**

**Jenale ya Institute ya
Bafetoledi ya
Afrika-Borwa**

**IPhephandaba
LeNhlango
YabaHumushi
BaseNingizimu Afrika**

Muratho is the Venda term for 'a bridge', the symbol of the communicative activity facilitated by language workers

Muratho ke lentšu la SeVenda le le hlalošago 'leporogo', gomme le swantšha kgokagano ye e hlokwago ke bašomi ba polelo

Elithi 'Muratho' yigama lesiVenda elisho 'ibhuloho', okuwuphawu lomsebenzi wokuxhumana owenziwa yizisebenzi zezolimi

Information on the name of the journal is given in English plus two other official languages on a rotational basis (in this issue Northern Sotho and Zulu).

Muratho accepts articles in all the South African official languages, provided they are accompanied by an English summary.

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Cover photo: Reinoud Boers – Mosque tiles in Iran
Other photos in this issue: Gretha Aalbers, dreamstime.com



Editor's Notes

September is Heritage Month in South Africa, and that fits right in with International Translation Day being celebrated on 30 September, as translation plays a huge role in the preservation of heritage. Let's all make an effort to celebrate the day and highlight our profession.

The theme for ITD 2013 is "Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World". Below is the text of a communiqué issued by the International Federation of Translators (FIT) for this year's event.

Last year FIT initiated a competition to design a poster for International Translation Day, and the winner of the first competition was one of our own members, Naomi Dinur. Well done, Naomi! The poster can be downloaded from the FIT website if you would like to use it in your celebrations.

Until next time

Marion

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2013

Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World

The enormous diversity of languages and dialects in the world creates barriers to communication on a daily basis, affecting all areas of life. Human migration and globalization highlight the need for seamless communication across cultures. Professional translators, terminologists and interpreters have an essential role in this regard. Sometimes working under difficult circumstances, for example in fluctuating market conditions or in conflict zones, they nevertheless consistently work to overcome language barriers and bring people closer together.

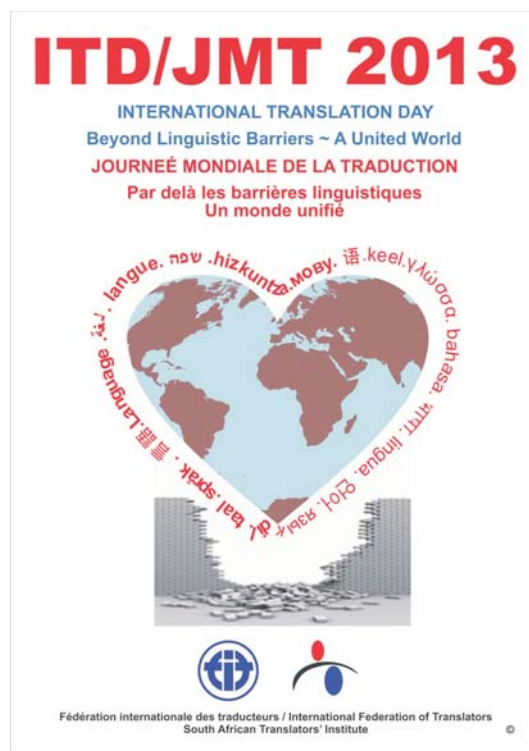
TTIs (translators, terminologists and interpreters) work at all levels of society. Not only do interpreters help politicians negotiate complicated treaties and agreements to avoid international conflicts and wars, but they also help parents obtain the necessary treatment for a sick child in an emergency room. Translators ensure that machinery can be

used safely around the world through professionally-translated technical manuals, and that software is localized so that we can all use it in our primary language. Thanks to translators, we can all enjoy the great literary masterpieces. Terminologists are becoming ever more essential in today's society, as they support the work of translators and interpreters. The work of terminologists in standardizing language in different domains also enables experts to communicate more easily.

International Translation Day (ITD), celebrated annually on 30 September, is an opportunity to showcase the profession and increase awareness of this vital work. FIT encourages all to mark this occasion in a special way, using this year's theme of

Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World.

A poster reflecting the theme is available at http://fit-ift.org.dedi303.nur4.host-h.net/downloads/dynamic/compound_text_content/poster_2013_sati_english.pdf and more information at http://fit-ift.org.dedi303.nur4.host-h.net/index.php?frontend_action=display_compound_text_content&item_id=4687



Language practice in South Africa: From occupation to profession*

What does it take for an occupation to become a profession and how far along the line is language practice? Althéa Kotzé looks into the matter.

Utilising a long-range perspective, professions function like any other commodity in a free-market society. These occupations evolve from specific needs in society at large and follow the supply and demand laws that govern any other societal commodity and/or service. Certain occupations successfully ascend the ladder to professional status provided they meet the criteria for a 'profession'. This professional status places them at the pinnacle of the occupational hierarchy and grants them special rights, status and benefits worthy of a profession's all-important inherent service ideal.

In South Africa, the occupation of language practice has not yet risen to this desired status despite the complex, multifaceted nature and important mediating role of the language practitioner evident in multicultural societies. From the point of view of the sociology of professions, language practitioners are an extreme example of a neglected, would-be professional occupation (Law 2010; Kotzé 2012). In an increasingly competitive market-dominated, multicultural, multilingual, service-oriented and globalised society the role, responsibility and nature of the work of the language practitioner develop into a mission extraordinaire. Amongst others, the service-oriented language practitioner –

- becomes a project manager in the freelancing market in the publishing sector when in charge of a multi-author, multivolume work;
- turns into a co-writer and quality controller of all facets of language use in news bureaus, in corporate sectors, in technical editing, in journals, magazines and e-books or digital media;
- plays an important role as a trainer or mentor for young would-be language practitioners;

- intervenes in web page/website text;
- is the ghost-writer who transforms mundane texts that are often too long, boring, unorganised and unstructured into the best seller of the year.

If service excellence is the desired goal, this multifaceted nature of the mediating role of the language expert translates into the need for professional attributes unique to the 'true profession' (see for example Abbott 1988; Barber 1963; Freidson 1983, 1994; Goode 1969; Hughes 1963; Larson 1977; MacDonald 1995; Torstendahl & Burrage 1990; Wilensky 1964). Professional attributes in language practice – professionalisation – are demonstrated by very detailed attributes associated with a professional language practitioner:

- An altruistic service ideal
- A well-developed ethical code
- Occupational autonomy, jurisdiction and monopoly
- Professional training institutions
- Specialised, career-oriented education and training, as well as structured continuous education
- A professional body
- A viable income congruous with expert status

The altruistic service ideal lies at the very heart of the activities of the professional language practitioner. Altruism – or selfless service – focuses on the needs of society and

Article by Althéa Kotzé. Althéa received her PhD from North-West University in 2012 on the basis of a comparative study of the professionalisation of language practitioners in South Africa and Flanders in Belgium. She is busy with a second PhD looking at further aspects of professionalisation.



* This article is an adaptation of an article from Text Editing (Van de Poel, K, Carstens, WAM and Linnegar, J. 2012. Text editing: A handbook for students and practitioners. Brussels: APS Editions, 200-203).

Because professional knowledge has the potential to bring about power, status and capital, it is expected of the professional language practitioner to utilise his or her professional skills and status to the benefit of the community at large.

implies a professional responsibility and trusteeship to each and every client or product. No language practitioner can enter into such a relationship without the necessary courage of her conviction to serve the client's needs.

A well-developed ethical code and the need for a viable income congruous with expert status go hand in hand with the altruistic service ideal. The ethical code provides a professional framework in a specific time and place (Pym 2003) to guide the professional language practitioner in his or her career. It provides the public with a legitimate view of the values, norms, standards and ideals of the profession, functions as a disciplinary mechanism, ensuring the general public of the standards of the profession, and serves as a socialisation mechanism to promote homogeneity between members of the profession.

The characteristics of selfless professional service characteristic of a professional calling imply personal commitment and service orientation (altruism) as opposed to profit orientation and commercial greed (egoism or individualism). However, this does not mean that the concept of altruistic service should outweigh the attribute of prestige income typical of professional status. Altruism carries with itself an economic attribute as much as a symbolical attribute. In an increasingly competitive market-dominated, multicultural, multilingual, service-oriented and globalised society the economic nature of language services provides a significant income for language practitioners. Therefore the emphasis should be on professionalism, which can only be obtained through specialised and career-oriented training.

Professional training institutions that provide specialised, career-oriented education and

training in language practice as part of a detailed language practice curriculum, and are instrumental in providing structured continuous education, would go a long way towards ensuring professionalisation of the language practitioner. A formal tertiary qualification specialising in language practice necessitates a standardised body of knowledge associated with long-term professional training. Because professional knowledge has the potential to bring about power, status and capital, it is expected of the professional language practitioner to utilise his or her professional skills and status to the benefit of the community at large. However, the crux of the matter is: 'Such status is attained not by going into the woods for intense, but brief, ordeals of initiation into adult mysteries, but by a long course of professional instruction and supervised practice' (Becker et al. 2009: 4).

Furthermore, the control of admission to training programmes and control over students' socialisation into the practice of language practice in the socio-economic market create the very foundation for a professional mind-set needed for a practice-based and altruistic work ethic.

Occupational autonomy, jurisdiction and monopoly denote the all-important occupational regulation and sanctioning of professional status from within the community – public and legitimate state sanctioning and elite group endorsement – that ensure occupational stability and occupational autonomy. Regulation consequently becomes the decisive factor in the professionalisation process. Without this public recognition, the language practitioner remains an invisible, run-of-the-mill practitioner in society. Thus, '[t]he effect of regulation will inevitably be to make the certified language practitioner the automatic preference of the serious client' (Bell 2000: 147).

A statutory professional body with full control of the processes of examination, certification, accreditation, licensing and admission control and discipline of the profession is a prerequisite, a sine qua non for regulation (Bell 2000: 149; Tseng 1992: 75).

The professional body, alongside standardised training and qualifications, therefore plays one of the most critical roles in the professional set-up and work ethic of the language practitioner. This body is responsible for measures of control over professional competence and the formal mechanisms of discipline in respect of professional standards. Petitioners of matters professional verily believe: 'Professional associations are the



powerhouse of all professional endeavours' (Tseng 1992: 75).

A language practitioner who strives to fulfil the professional ideal is one who functions within a work ethic where the core element is work-based upon the mastery of a complex body of knowledge and skills. The task of language practice develops into a vocation in which knowledge is science, learning and practice is used in the service of others. The language practitioner is governed by a code of ethics and professes a commitment to competence, integrity and morality, altruism, and the promotion of the public good within his or her domain.

These commitments form the basis of a social contract between the profession of language practice and society, which in turn grants a monopoly over the use of its knowledge base, the right to considerable autonomy in practice and the privilege of self-regulation. Without these commitments' the language practitioner will never be worthy of the inherent, all-important mediating task at hand.

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FIT World Congress

Call for participation in the selection of favourites

The Call for Papers for the FIT World Congress from 4 to 6 August 2014 expired at the end of August, and we are proud to report that 343 abstracts were received by that deadline. Proposals came from 49 countries and all continents (except Antarctica); Europe is in the lead with 51%, followed by Asia with 32%, America with 10%, Africa with 4% and Oceania with 3% of the proposals.

We are of course extremely pleased at this large number of highly different proposals, and thank everyone who supported us so vigorously in distributing the Call for Papers.

Now we are faced with the agony of decision. To avoid making the choices in isolation and to involve the people who will be attending the congress, we are now **calling for participation in the selection of favourites**. All those interested can vote for the presentations they would like to hear at the congress at <http://www.fit2014.org/index.php?lang=en&content=050000.php>. The votes from the selection of favourites will have a significant influence on the design of the programme, subject to certain measures to preserve a broad variety of topics and countries of origin.

The selection of favourites will remain open until 30 September 2013, and we will be grateful if **you can pass on this information to your members and invite them to take part**.

Questions? Contact Kessler@bdue.de or secretariat@fit-ift.org 

A language practitioner who strives to fulfil the professional ideal is one who functions within a work ethic where the core element is work-based upon the mastery of a complex body of knowledge and skills.

The responsibility of a sworn translator: Saying NO to translating a forged document

Exactly how far does a sworn translator's responsibility extend? Davina Eisenberg shares her opinion.

On its website, in the section regarding sworn translators, SATI states: 'A sworn translator has sworn an oath in the High Court of South Africa to "translate faithfully and correctly, to the best of [their] knowledge and ability".'

To ensure that a translation is recognised as a sworn translation, sworn translators stamp and sign every page of their translations and add a statement certifying that it "is a true translation of the original". A sworn translation of a document is the legal equivalent of the original document for evidentiary purposes in a court of law. Sworn translators carry a heavy responsibility, because their work can have life-changing consequences for the people involved.'

Further on in the same section, SATI lists the key characteristics of a sworn translator as knowing the South African legal system, paying pedantic attention to detail, and translating with honesty and integrity.

It is clear that the sworn translator's responsibility is enormous and it is with this in mind that I have practising as a French-to-English sworn translator of the High Court of South Africa since 1999.

When a client gives me document to translate, I will translate it to the best of my ability, with the honesty and integrity of a sworn translator, but what happens when the document is false – do I translate it anyway?

I posed the issue to an attorney, who responded that it is not my role to judge whether a document is authentic or not, but simply to translate it. A fellow sworn translator thought the same way.

I certainly do not agree.

Fraud

Any dictionary will state in one way or another that the creation of a false document

with the intent to deceive is fraud and a criminal offence.

If I agree to translate a document that I know is false, I am agreeing to collude with a criminal – it is that simple. If I am paid to do so, the offence is more serious. I have taken an oath in the High Court of South Africa to 'translate faithfully', but have I taken this oath to never translate a document that I know is false? Do honesty and integrity not play a role in our profession as sworn translators when it comes to deciding whether to translate a document we know is false?

I believe that the issue at stake is that our honesty and integrity go a lot further than accepting things at face value, in which case this oath includes the refusal to translate any document that we suspect is false.

I have been employed by the walk-in translation service provided by the Alliance Française du Cap as a French-English sworn translator for a number of years and, given the vast number of false documents clients turn in for translation, my experience has certainly sharpened my ability to detect genuine documents from false ones. I have become familiar with specific layouts of criminal records from various Francophone African countries, or signatures of the officials who draw up criminal records and birth, death and marriage certificates, for instance. But the easiest way to spot a forgery is through the number of misspellings, incorrect use of accents and upper-case words mid-sentence within a single document. I would say that I can spot a forgery within a few seconds and am rarely wrong.

It is certainly not my place to judge the moral standards of foreigners seeking new lives in South Africa, but it has been our experience at the Alliance that most false documents are submitted by clients from the DRC and Burundi. In fact, there is currently somebody

Article by Davina Eisenberg. Davina is a SATI-accredited member based in Cape Town. She has a BA and BA Honours (French, Italian, Cultural History) from the University of Cape Town and an MA and PhD (19th century French literature, Art history) from Cornell University, USA. She runs a freelance translation business and also teaches high-school French. You can learn more about Davina at www.legallyfrench.com.

in Cape Town who is making good money by 'manufacturing' false documents for Burundians, and bad fakes at that. Clients come in from different parts of Burundi, but the font of the print, the typewriter key impressions, stamps, signatures and certificate numbers are all the same.

Where is our sympathy, you may ask, for these people who come from war-torn countries whose documents have perhaps been lost or destroyed? How can they start new lives in South Africa without documents? Should we turn a blind eye and cut them some slack? But would we still be asking these questions if we consider that there are hundreds of false police clearance certificates and senior certificates floating around?

One of the most worrying aspects of this scourge of criminal activity is that false documents are being stamped by our local police stations as being true copies of the original. Are police commissioners fluent in French? Do they know whether the document they have just stamped and signed is false?

The moment a document is stamped and signed by a police commissioner or a sworn translator, it has become valid in the eyes of the ignorant public and automatically carries more weight. Not many would now question the 'genuineness' of a document that has

been stamped by a South African authority. The forgery is now 'kosher' and universities, potential employers and anyone requiring a sworn translation for administrative purposes, for instance, are none the wiser.

One day, a client from the DRC came in to the Alliance Française du Cap with a false Doctorate of Medicine. Need I say more?

We at the Alliance Française du Cap have a zero-tolerance policy regarding false documents. Management and I have tried our utmost to curtail the number of false French documents that clients continue to have the audacity to submit for translation. We now include the following on the information sheet that a client is required to complete along with paying for their translation in advance. Firstly, 'The Alliance Française du Cap declines all responsibility whatsoever for the authenticity of the documents submitted for translation.' Secondly, 'Dear Client: Please note that any false document submitted for translation will not be translated and that you will not be refunded.' I am pleased to report that we now get false documents only on very rare occasions.


If we are unable to determine with certainty whether a document submitted for translation is false, we will give the client the benefit of the doubt and proceed with the translation.

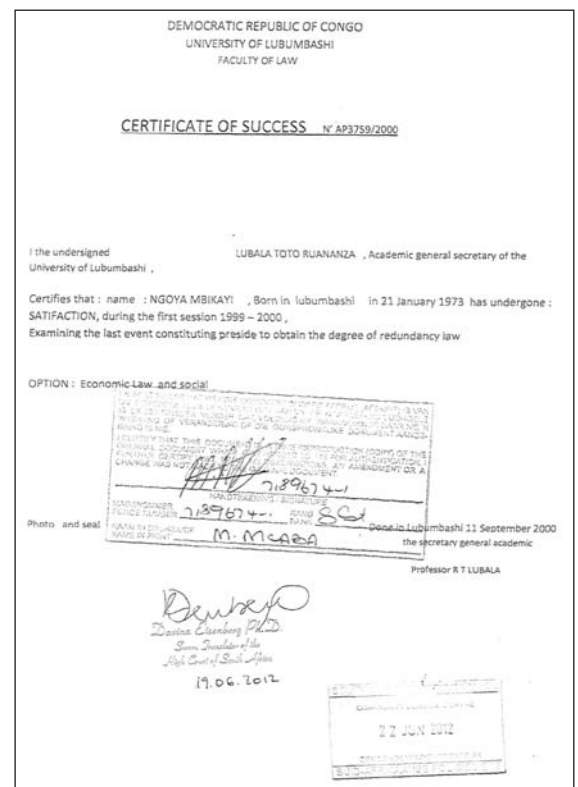
Postscript

Several months after the above article was written, Davina received an enquiry from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), asking her to confirm that certain sworn translations done by her were genuine. Imagine her surprise and consternation when she opened the file and discovered six pages of documents carrying her stamp and signature, but which she had never seen before! So not only are false documents being produced, but translators' identities are being stolen as well.

Look at the poor translation in the documents, one of the signs of a forgery that Davina mentions in her article. The worst, she says, is that these translations also bear the stamp of a police station, certifying that they are true copies of the original! The question now arises as to whether the standard guidelines established by the SATI should apply to all categories of clients. Davina does not believe so. She believes that the sworn translator should translate based on whether the 'document' submitted for translation is

done so with honesty. For instance, photocopies should be accepted for translation if it is obvious that it is a photocopy of a genuine original, even if it is not certified as being true to the original. This, in her mind, is translating with the integrity expected of her.

All sworn translators should be very aware of these scams and take care to protect themselves as far as possible. 



Legislation for the language professions

South African language practitioners face the prospect of being regulated, with the government having submitted a South African Language Practitioners' Council Bill to Parliament. Although this legislation appeared to come fairly much out of the blue, it is in fact something that has been under discussion on and off since the mid-1980s. The last 18 months in particular have seen considerable movement on the language legislation scene in South Africa. SATI has kept its finger on the pulse of things on behalf of members throughout, and here we bring you up to date with what has been happening.

Members will remember that at the end of 2011 a public participation process took place on what was then called the **South African Languages Bill**. The proposed Act was intended to regulate and monitor the use of official languages by national government, promote parity of esteem and equitable treatment of the official languages, facilitate equitable access to services and information, and promote good language management by the national government for efficient public service and administration. SATI submitted **comment** as part of the public participation process, and the Bill – which applies to all national government departments, national public entities and national public enterprises – was passed into law as the **Use of Official Languages Act** in October 2012. Among other things, the Act makes provision for language units to be established in all departments, entities and enterprises and holds the prospect of increased demand in the translation profession.

In late April 2013 **draft regulations** under the Use of Official Languages Act were published and comment invited from interested parties. Despite the lack of warning and the short time period granted for comment, SATI studied the regulations, consulted members and submitted comment on their behalf.

The increase in demand for language services implicit in the Use of Official Languages Act means there is a concomitant requirement for adequate numbers of competent language practitioners to meet the demand, and so shortly on the heels of the Use of Official Languages Act followed another Bill: the

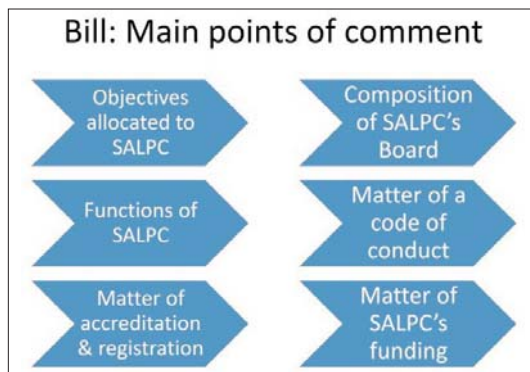
South African **Language Practitioners' Council Bill**, published by the Minister of Arts and Culture in *Government Gazette* No. 36557 on 14 June 2013. This Bill will affect language professionals far more directly, as it will establish a statutory body with which language practitioners (translators, terminologists, interpreters, text editors, lexicographers, terminologists) will need to register and in time to be accredited in order to work.

This Bill did not in fact appear in direct response to the Use of Official Languages Act. Work to regulate the profession began almost 30 years ago, and SATI has been involved and looking out for members' interests all along the way. SATI approached government about a regulatory body for the first time in around 1985. A government representative at that year's AGM informed members that a body was unlikely ever to be set up as the government was against over-regulating professions because this led to monopolies – instead, the government favoured opening up to competition.

The position remained thus for the next 10 years. In 1995 the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology launched a drive towards a national language plan for South Africa, resulting in what became known as the LANGTAG report (<http://www.polity.org.za/polity/govdocs/reports/langtag.html>). The idea of a controlling body for language practitioners was raised in this report and gained further momentum in 1996, when a representative subcommittee of the newly-constituted Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) was requested specifically to investigate the desirability of such a body.

One of the members of that subcommittee was SATI's chair at the time, Prof. Annette Combrink.

The next step was a consultative conference held in Johannesburg in 1998, at which international experts from Kenya, Malaysia, Australia and Sweden joined forces with some 250 local delegates to discuss a draft proposal for a language practitioners' council. Once again, SATI was among the organisations represented and made an active contribution to the proceedings. A second consultative conference took place a year later to consider the procedures related to the establishment of such a council. From this a Bill was drawn up and discussed at a large language indaba organised by the Department of Arts and Culture in 2000. These discussions led to amendment and adjustments to the Bill and improved versions being prepared in consultation with the Department's National Language Forum. Between 2004 and 2006 SATI's executive director participated in meetings of the National Language Forum and work on this process. Work continued behind the scenes thereafter, and the version of the Bill that was published in June 2013 has come a long way since the first version.

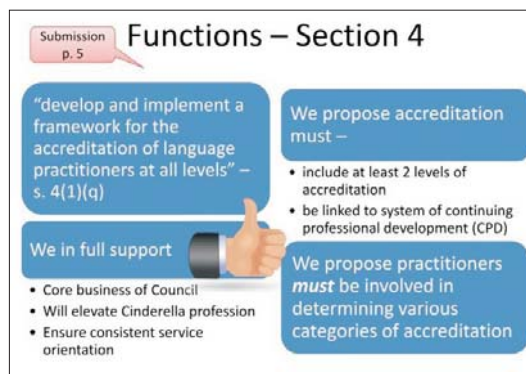


SATI was at the same time involved in other efforts on behalf of members and the profession that also relate to the current Language Practitioners' Council Bill. One element addressed by the Bill is the training of language practitioners. During the period of approximately 2000 to 2004 a range of SGBs – standards generating bodies – were established and generated a range of tertiary education standards under the auspices of SAQA (the South African Qualifications Authority), which are now part of the SA National Qualifications Framework (NQF). SATI was directly involved in SGB04 – Translation, Interpreting and Language Editing (the TILE SGB), which was also chaired by Annette Combrink. As a result of this work, curricula for the following qualifications are readily available today:

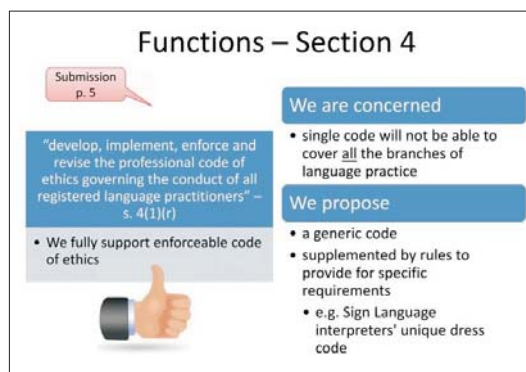
- National Certificate in Language Practice (NQF Level 4)
- National Diploma in General Translation (NQF Level 5)
- National Certificate in Technical Translation (NQF Level 6)
- National Diploma in Technical Translation (NQF Level 7)
- National Diploma in Liaison Interpreting (NQF Level 5)
- National Diploma in Interpreting (NQF Level 7)
- National Diploma in Language Editing and Document Design (NQF Level 7)

The South African Language Practitioners' Council Bill has the potential to be a very important instrument for recognising the role and status of language practitioners, and will be equally important in protecting the public against unprofessional and incompetent practitioners. For this reason, SATI fully supports the Bill and its implementation and will involve itself to the fullest extent possible in the processes leading up to its passing into law.

During 2000 to 2004 a range of standards generating bodies were established and generated a range of tertiary education standards under the auspices of SAQA, which are now part of the SA National Qualifications Framework. SATI was directly involved in SGB04 – Translation, Interpreting and Language Editing (the TILE SGB).



When the Bill was released, however, there was a strong feeling among SATI and sister language organisations that a process of public consultation was necessary on this version of the Bill before it went to Parliament for consent. SATI thus joined with the Professional Editors' Group (PEG) and the Associ-




ation of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB) in petitioning the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture to open the Bill for consultation.

Accreditation – Section 20	
<p>We are concerned that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> core business of SALPC, i.e. framework for <i>accreditation</i>, is dealt with very superficially <p>There is no reference to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> competence (only capacity) standards being met public accountability 	<p>We propose that following aspects be considered –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>categories</i> of language practitioners to be accredited <i>languages & language combinations</i> that SALPC will accredit different <i>levels</i> of accreditation that should be offered nature of <i>qualification(s)</i> required for accreditation

The request was granted and SATI and PEG made a comprehensive joint written submission and also made an oral presentation to the Committee at the hearings on 20 and 21 August 2013. This was well received. On 11 September the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) responded to the various submissions that had been made, acknowledging some of the points raised and rejecting others. At the time of writing, another meeting of the Portfolio Committee is planned at which the Bill will be worked through clause by clause in the light of the issues raised in the submissions.

On 11 September the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) responded to the various submissions that had been made, acknowledging some of the points raised and rejecting others.

Categories of language practitioners to be accredited	
<p>Submission Para. 9.5 on p. 8</p> <p>We are concerned about position of sworn translators - not clear?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill seems to indicate that sworn translators will not be recognised as language practitioners after transitional period of 2 years - s. 41(1)(a) 	<p>We propose that the position of sworn translators be clarified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered and/or accredited? Knowledge of legality of documents important <p>Bill could introduce category of permanently sworn interpreter</p>

SATI will continue to monitor the developments and work to protect the interests of its members and the wider profession. 

Continued professional development	
<p>Submission Para. 9.6 on p. 8</p> <p>We are concerned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no provision for CPD practitioners would need to be re-accredited at regular intervals if no requirement for CPD <p>We propose that CPD must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be required to maintain accreditation form an integral part of objectives of the SALPC 	<p>We propose that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 4(1)(q) “develop and implement a framework for the accreditation of language practitioners at all levels” be augmented to read: “develop and implement a framework for the accreditation and related continuing professional development of language practitioners, providing for a minimum of two levels of accreditation”

Resources

The Interpreter's Launch Pad is an interesting monthly newsletter issued by the well-known Nataly Kelly. You can subscribe for free at www.interprenaut.com. Here are some snippets from an earlier issue to whet your appetite.

INTERSECT newsletter

One of my favorite e-mail newsletters, which always has plenty of information about interpreting, comes from Cross-Cultural Communications in Maryland. The free newsletter is called INTERSECT, and is written by veteran trainer Marjory Bancroft. Sign up for it today, and receive important updates about interpreting in your Inbox: <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=0019X2hOI7p7lCjTraeQmNC7A%3D%3D>.

The first human record of interpreters

Did you know that the first written proof of interpreters dates back to 3000 BC, when the word “interpreter” was recorded in several hieroglyphs from Ancient Egypt?


There wasn't just one glyph for “interpreter” – there were several. According to Katherine Griffis-Greenberg, an Egyptologist from Oxford, the four glyph combinations, using the Gardiner sign list (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gardiner%27s_sign_list), are D36:W109; G1-D36:D36-F18-T14-A2; F18-A2; and G1-D36:D36-Z7-F132-A24.

A2, which appears in two of the ways of saying “interpreter,” has an image of a human pointing to their mouth, and also has the meaning of “counselor”.

Ethnologue

Ethnologue (<http://www.ethnologue.com/>), is an encyclopedic catalogue of 6 909 of the world's languages. The information in the book is available online, so anyone can access it for free. The newly updated website offers a language of the day, browsing by region, and many more new features.

SpeechPool

SpeechPool.net (<http://speechpool.net/en/>) a repository of speeches for students and interpreters-in-training to use in order to practice their interpreting skills. Students can share their practice materials, rate the difficulty of the speeches, and access this all at no charge. It is also a good resource for doing some simultaneous practice! 

The Future of the Book

'Future of the Book' was the thought-provoking and sobering theme of the 2013 Academic and Non-Fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA) AGM along with its accompanying workshop focusing on 'The Challenges of Writing and Publishing in Indigenous Languages'.

The workshop, held on Friday 5 April at the National Library of South Africa, Pretoria, was attended by ANFASA members, other professionals in the book publishing and distribution industry and individuals with a keen interest in the field.

The first panel gave an overview of the history of book development in South Africa and why the subject is a growing and exciting area of research and why it should be of interest to writers, publishers and academics. A trend to be noted was the steady growth of the book in particular languages, namely English and Afrikaans. For a number of reasons English continues to enjoy a form of monopoly in the production and dissemination of all forms of written materials, not only in South Africa but in many areas of the modern world. In South Africa Afrikaans has a strong tradition of generating new books and of translation into Afrikaans of books originally published in other prominent languages of the world. Community libraries and bookstores have a healthy and steady supply of book in the language.

The second panel focused on the challenges facing SA's indigenous languages. Winston Mohapi Tsietsi of Moaba Sesotho (the Sesotho writers' guild) pointed to the centuries-long censorship of literature written by indigenous writers as a main cause of a general lack of enthusiasm in producing books in these languages. When people wrote from the heart about things that affect them, the content was often shot down as reflective of paganism if it was not to the taste of the colonial censors. In time it became an established tradition that seems to persist down to our day that literature in indigenous languages should only be pitched at the school market level. Mkomati Mongwe, a member of PanSALB for the Xitsonga perspective, bewailed the acute shortage of funding for emerging writers in the indigenous language, further exacerbated by the fact that publishers generally have little if any interest in literature in these languages. He pointed



out that the government has so far done very little to help stem the tide.

Tseliso Masolane, a language practitioner at the Free State Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, gave a fresh perspective by pointing out that the general public should also be willing to take a large chunk of the blame for the sustained status quo through always looking to government to bring about every change they wish to see in their lives. He illustrated the point with the case of the Sesotho Literature Museum, where the literary community has not waited for government to lead the way, but has come forward to utilise this resource for book launches, writing skills development workshops and other literary events. Without trivialising the important role of government, people must also actively become the change they want to see.

The chairperson, Prof. Sihawu Ngubane, summed up by stressing the dire need to upgrade the content of books written in indigenous languages to extend beyond the school market so as to encourage general public to read in these languages. He mentioned that the situation was not entirely hopeless as there were old classics, books of high calibre, which were being reprinted. Sadly, he noted, there are not as many of these as one would wish and he expressed

Article by Manzo Khulu. Manzo is a SATI-accredited freelance language practitioner with a passion for promoting the use and development of the indigenous languages.



Digital publishing, the house was told, has its own challenges but is lending a far greater scope for the emerging small writer to publish without hindrance.

hope that the initiative would continue and be expanded by the addition of new titles.

The keynote address by Dr. Mbulelo Mzamane, a renowned author, academic and activist, highlighted, first and foremost, the need for decolonising the African mind. He suggested that the future of the book in South Africa does lie principally also in the African languages. The power of your own language, he explained, was understood better by the early missionaries who heralded mainstream colonialism because they did not bother to teach English or French to the natives. Instead they learnt the local language, took the local dialect and standardised it and translated the Bible into that language. So they understood that if they gave you the Bible in your own language then you would feel that it is speaking to you as well. He noted that the indigenous languages have been and continue to be ignored, to the detriment of a huge section of our society. He stressed that although he eventually learnt everything there was to learn about English literature that never became a substitute for books in his own language.



He concluded that what the country needs is education for de-alienation, education for decolonisation, which would invariably begin once again when the people are brought foursquare to their languages, cultures and heritage, which is where the struggle in South Africa is at present – the struggle for the heart and minds of South Africans.

“So the day education is lifted, in terms of who reads what, then a culture of reading would have been effectively implanted. The future of the book in South Africa can only be rosy if education is going to be the driver, reintegration for reintegrating the down-trodden and connecting them to their particular culture,” he pointed out.

On Saturday 6 April the AGM shed light on how digital publishing is gaining ground and is geared to helping emerging writers to self-publish. It is an invaluable platform that is opening up a whole new space for everyone


instead of doors seen to be perpetually shut by gatekeepers of traditional publishing houses in the face of writers in African languages and other small-time players. Among those leading the discussion on this panel were Melvin Kaabwe from Van Schaik Publishers, Colleen Higgs of Mojaji Books, a small publisher, and Bontle Senne from Puku Children’s Literature Foundation.

Digital publishing, the house was told, has its own challenges but is lending a far greater scope for the emerging small writer to publish without hindrance. One most obvious setback is that people with no access to electronic media, especially in the rural areas, remain excluded.

The last panel outlined the supply chain management process involved in the purchasing of library material. They highlighted some challenges involved and how libraries are constantly trying to streamline as well as ensure that they ultimately procure what the public needs.

Bongeka Mjwara, district manager of KZN library services, outlined the multifaceted process they have to follow to decide what books to buy and for which of the many libraries they are responsible for in the province. Selection teams made up of librarians from all over the province sit down to give a broad sense of reading trends and all endeavour is made to determine at grassroots level what the public would normally wish to read. The Department of Arts and Culture provides tools for keeping track of what stock the libraries have.

Rules to be complied with include buying mainly from BBBEE book suppliers that are registered with the Department and not directly from the publishers, as that practice was established as killing the small book supplier businesses. The focus is always on South African books. However, the biggest driving factor, she pointed, was the ever diminishing budget for buying books, as each year a larger chunk always has to be allocated for healthcare.

To sum up, the AGM and its workshop gave broader insights into the current trends in the South African book-production industry. Although mention was made of emerging opportunities, as provided by the new digital publishing, and how existing book suppliers can enhance their recognition to become suppliers to the library services, the focus remained on problems and challenges but did not provide tangible solutions that are likely to yield visible results in the foreseeable future. 

Sworn translation exposed

The strong interest shown in the workshop on sworn translation organised by SATI and SATI Boland at the Royal Cape Yacht Club in Cape Town on Saturday 17 August 2013 demonstrated the demand for information about and further training in sworn translation.

A group of 25 SATI members attended the workshop, which was presented by Laurent Chauvet. A similar workshop was held in Pretoria in June last year, also presented by Mr Chauvet, who is a practising sworn translator and also involved in SATI accreditation for sworn translators.

Participants were given a basic overview of what certification of a document by a sworn translator entails. A fundamental concept, providing a key to better understanding, was conveyed at the outset: that the term “sworn translation” is a contraction for “a translation certified by a sworn translator”. The translator is sworn, not the translation.



Laurent sharing his knowledge



An enthralled audience learning all about sworn translation

regulated by the profession itself. SATI has made a significant contribution in this regard, setting standards of proficiency by means of accreditation exams, formulating a code of ethics and representing the interests of sworn translators in the public and private sectors. However, sworn translators still have the responsibility of promoting and developing professional standards and ethical practice.

In the course of the workshop, very useful and practical information was conveyed, relating to the wide range of documents presented for certification: certificates, reports, affidavits ... the list goes on. Important considerations are whether the document provided is an original or a copy, certified or non-certified, that it must be in a printed version, and that it must be a complete document, not just a section or extract.

The question uppermost in the minds of participants was “How do I become a sworn translator?” The requirements for sworn translators are specified by law and therefore vary from one country to the next. In South Africa a translator can become a sworn translator by passing an exam, administered by SATI or a sworn translator of seven years’ standing. Then he or she can file an application, which includes various documents, to court to be placed on the roll. Once issued with a High Court order, the translator can have certification and/or identification stamps made.

The professional status of sworn translators, like that of translators in general, is therefore to a large degree dependent on how it is

The certification process involves various stages: research, translation, editing and the the actual certification, which must meet specific requirements. From the many examples of documents presented for certification, it was clear that a sworn translator meets very interesting people, and is often presented with unusual and challenging requests!

The positive response and feedback of the participants gave a clear indication that the workshop gave a good basic introduction for prospective sworn translators, and that everyone appreciated Mr Chauvet’s thorough and entertaining presentation. A more advanced and practical follow-up workshop is in the pipeline for next year. 🇷🇺

Report by Gretha Aalbers. Gretha is a SATI-accredited freelance translator in Cape Town and chair of the SATI Boland chapter.

Accreditation: Some thoughts

Members often seem slightly mystified by SATI's accreditation system. Sometimes they wonder why things can't be done differently. The accreditation office also experiences difficulties with some aspects of the system. Over 2011 and 2012 the Accreditation Committee discussed various issues while reviewing the accreditation system. These are outlined below, so you can see the types of topics that the committee looked into.

Candidates regularly ask to see their marked exams, despite it being made quite clear beforehand that this is not allowed. There was lengthy discussion on the arguments for and against, but the final consensus was that the current system should be retained.

Exam format

In considering the format of the written accreditation exams – which currently work on a distance basis, overseen by a local invigilator identified by the candidate – the committee investigated changing to a system of an open-book exam, written at specific venues at certain times. Such a change would have an array of implications, such as extra costs for some candidates who have to travel to the nearest venue, the availability of resources to consult during the exam, time pressure and so on. The feeling of the committee was therefore that the current system remains a better option, with the following being the reasons for rejecting the alternative system proposed:

- It is less candidate-friendly than the current system
- It involves far more administration and organisation
- Practical implementation as regards the provision of resources in particular would be problematic – the current system was designed to allow candidates to have access to all their normal resources, but this would not be possible if exams were written in specified venues
- It would be almost impossible to find venues with all the requisite resources that translators in all language combinations may need, plus internet access
- Doing the exams at a set venue would require the exam time to be reduced (i.e. candidates would not be able to spend 24 hours on the exam as at present)

Markers

The question was raised whether the names of SATI exam markers should be made public, in a similar way to how the names of reviewers are listed for a journal. The consensus among the committee members was

that this is not a viable option. The pool of markers is limited and publishing a list of available markers would make it quite clear in certain cases who had marked a particular candidate's exam. Not only could this lead to personal issues between candidates and markers, but it would destroy the anonymity that is an essential part of the system and so cannot be considered an option at present.

Seeing marked exam scripts

Candidates regularly ask to see their marked exams, despite it being made quite clear beforehand that this is not allowed. There was lengthy discussion on the arguments for and against, but the final consensus was that the current system should be retained. SATI procedure is in line with best practice the world over in this regard, and the exams are not designed to be a learning process – we have the practice test for that purpose. Candidates also receive a fairly comprehensive report on their exam, which adequately indicates the reasons for the results obtained. There is an appeal procedure available to candidates who wish to dispute the result of an exam.

The committee did agree that the appeals procedure was not widely mentioned and candidates might not always be aware of it. The report that exam candidates receive has therefore been adjusted to include information about the appeals procedure and the fact that applications need to be made within eight weeks of results being received.

More objective marking

A vital component in any examination system is consistency and receiving the same results from all markers. We all know that translation and editing are subjective and no two exams will be exactly the same. Similarly, markers have preferred ways of working. The com-

committee debated ways of further improving SATI's exam system by ensuring ever-greater consistency among markers, which would increase the reliability of the system and candidates' confidence in it. Among the possible ways of achieving this are using a system where errors are more accurately defined and markers' comments need to fall within these categories and be linked to a reference source or a rule; holding training sessions for markers; issuing guidelines for markers highlighting potential problem areas when new exams are introduced and how these should be approached; and allowing markers to discuss exams where there has been disagreement on whether the candidate should be passed or failed. Each suggestion has pros and cons and in several cases there are financial implications too. The discussion is ongoing, with every effort being made to find the ideal solution.

Resources


Setting up new exams is a complicated process and the committee wondered whether SATI should focus its resources on accrediting members working in local languages. There was adamant consensus that SATI cannot exclude foreign languages from the accreditation system, despite the problems that this raises, as this discriminates against certain members. While testing for major foreign languages is generally no more difficult than for local languages, minority languages require far greater resources of both time and money, and an additional challenge of finding adequately qualified and competent markers. Again, various possible solutions are still being discussed to find the best solution, among them cooperating with sister associations that offer accreditation for these languages, which seems the most viable solution if those bodies hold equivalent standards and are prepared to cooperate in this way.

Communication about the system

Communication is always key in a system like accreditation. Those working with it daily are so familiar with the procedures that they may not realise that members – especially new members – do not have the same background knowledge as they do. The committee therefore emphasised that regular reminders about all the services offered is essential. An FAQ document might also be helpful for members who are not familiar with the system and will be drawn up. Workshops or webinars to explain the system and answer members' questions may also be considered.

Surveys could also be useful in determining what aspects of the system are not clear enough.

Conclusion

The aim of SATI's accreditation system is to increase professionalism and give clients peace of mind. It is not intended to trick or trip up candidates and the Council and Accreditation Committee will continue to review the system and make it as fair and accessible to members as possible. If you have any comments or questions, we would love to hear from you. Simply contact the SATI office at office@translators.org.za. 

Do you know?

Do you know the basis on which SATI translation examinations are marked? We use the concept of major and minor errors, which are defined as follows:


Major errors

- Gross mistranslation, in which the meaning of the original word or phrase is lost altogether
- Omission of vital words or information
- Insertion of information not in the original
- Inclusion of alternate translations, where the translator should have made a choice
- Any important failure in target-language grammar

Minor errors

- Mistranslation that distorts somewhat, but does not wholly falsify, the intent of the original
- Omission of words that contribute only slightly to meaning
- Presentation of alternate translations where the terms offered are synonymous or nearly so
- 'Inelegance' of target-language grammar

Exams are marked on the basis of the following guidelines:

1. The candidate fails the exam if there are two or more major errors in the paper as a whole.
2. The candidate fails the exam if there is one (or more) major error and seven or more minor errors in any one question.
3. The candidate fails the exam if there are no major errors but over 10 minor errors in any one question or 20+ minor errors in the whole paper.
4. The target text must be able to stand as a text in its own right, i.e. read like an original in the target language. It will obviously reflect any major problems in the structure of the source text, but large numbers of grammatical errors or infelicities or a text that sounds stilted and unnatural would render the translation unacceptable. 

There was adamant consensus that SATI cannot exclude foreign languages from the accreditation system ... as this discriminates against certain members.

SATI bursary recipients 2013

Thanks to the generosity of members who contribute to the SATI Development Fund each year and the ATKV, which this year made sponsorship of R11 000 available, SATI was able to provide bursary assistance to eight language practice students this year. Here we introduce them to you.

Faith Cherozaide Jordaan



Why am I studying Language Practice? In a generation that is filled with technology and everything being on spell check and auto spell, one can say that the value of language and grammar is taken for granted. My aim in studying Language Practice at the University of Technology – Free State is that so one day I can make an impact on the lives of people and improve the use of language in society.

My main aim after completing my diploma in Language Practice is furthering my education in the line of teaching and soon after that becoming a language teacher in Afrikaans Home Language, English First Additional Language and Afrikaans First Additional Language. I have a passion for my home language (Afrikaans), but I am just as good interacting in English. I have a great love for children and the youth of South Africa, which gave rise to the idea of studying Language Practice in order to become a language teacher.

This bursary impacts on my life in every way; receiving it gives me the opportunity to fulfil my dream. It is important that South Africa sees to the literacy needs of the youth and that development of translation and interaction in English and one other language be supported from early phases. Education and the improvement of language amongst the youth is something I am passionate about.

Romantha Botha



My naam is Romantha Botha. Ek is oorspronklik van George en studeer tans BA Taalpraktyk en Kommunikasie aan die Noordwes-Universiteit, Vaaldriehoek-kampus. My liefde vir taal en die interpretasie daarvan het reeds vanaf 'n jong ouderdom begin ontwikkel. Omdat ek in 'n kleurling-gemeenskap grootgeword het, waar Afrikaans baie vermeng en soms verkeerd gebruik is, onthou ek hoe ek altyd my familie en vriende gekorrigeer het (iets wat my ma altyd teen die mure uitgedryf het). Die kognitiewe prosesse van vertaalkunde asook

tolking het my altyd gefassineer en het bygedra tot my liefde vir taal.

Op skoolvlak het ek altyd goed gevorder in my tale (Afrikaans huistaal en Engels eerste addisionele taal) en in matriek onderskeidings behaal. Ek het dan besluit om na skool aansoek te doen aan die NWU, waar Taalpraktyk tans een van my hoofvakke is. Ek het ook Frans as 'n addisionele taal in my eerste en tweede jaar gedoen. Met die aanvangs van my tweede jaar was ek steeds onseker oor presies watter loopbaan ek wil volg, soos baie ander studente maar is.

Die SAVI-beurstoekenning is vir my 'n groot voorreg nie net omdat dit finansiële steun bied nie, maar ook omdat dit my toegang en blootstelling gee aan 'n bedryf wat ek binnekort graag wil betree. Uiteindelik lyk my toekom meer duidelik en my doel bereikbaar. Ek is en was nog altyd 'n baie onafhanklike persoon wat moes veg vir wat ek in die lewe wil bereik. Hierdie toekenning het my laat besef dat ongeag jou omstandighede of agtergrond, jou drome bereikbaar is en dit nie net 'n droom hoef te bly nie.

Phakamani Mbatha

South Africa has eleven official languages and some others that are also recognised, such as South African Sign Language. These languages are being promoted so as to be treated and used equally, in order to bridge the gap of language marginalisation.



My home language is isiZulu, which is one of the official languages of South Africa and is a member of the Bantu/Nguni family of languages. It is spoken by about nine million people, mainly in Zululand and northern Natal in South Africa, but also in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Swazi-

land. This language is very polite and respectful, yet it can be confusing to those who have not mastered it, because of its broadness that has to do with dialects, where speakers or writers use euphemistic words to avoid direct words that are felt to be harsh or blunt.

IsiZulu illustrates languages that have high orthographic consistency, where the letters always represent the same speech sound, and is an agglutinative language, one in which root words do not stand alone, but combine with various morphemes to form large compound words.

Each language has its own related culture, which is a determinant of our attitudes. Language is the central feature of culture because it is through the language that culture is transmitted, interpreted and configured. Culture can be read in the language and the evolution of its lexical features and morphology; language is distinctive in distinguishing us from the animals, but above all language is the main means of human intercourse.

I chose Translation and Interpreting Practice as my field of study because I am good at languages and I wanted to make them my career, allowing me to work independently, stay updated and meet new people around the world.

Onnica Mokoka

I am 22 years of age and live in Pretoria. I was born and brought up in the small dusty streets of Mokopane. My school days were the best as they offered me lots of things to learn from. I did quite a lot of subjects, but was more interested in languages than any other subject. I completed my National Diploma in Language Practice last year and am currently a fourth-year (postgraduate) Language Practice student at Tshwane University of Technology, taking English, Northern Sotho and Language and Translation Practice as major subjects.

Studying towards a National Diploma in Language Practice has given me an opportunity to understand how languages operate and why we don't translate word for word, but rather consider the meaning of the source text. Translating different texts every day in class for the past three years has really sharpened my translation skills and has helped me acquire the skills that I have in



terms of translating and using appropriate language in specific situations. It really gets very frustrating when a source text has no equivalent in the target language; that is when I forever remember the translation strategies to avoid non-equivalence.

I am a speaker of Northern Sotho, also referred to as Sepedi. Northern Sotho is a member of the Bantu language family. The majority of people speaking my language are found in the province of Limpopo, because that is where the original speakers of the language come from. Northern Sotho has many dialects, depending on which part of Limpopo you are in. The Sepedi dialect is also the basis for the written language.

I have a knowledge of several African languages – Setswana and Zulu in addition to Northern Sotho – as well as English. I did Practical Zulu as a subject for the past three years.

I chose this particular qualification because I was always fascinated with how interpreters and translators have such sharp listening and writing skills and the way that they regard each and every language as important. I believe that strong language skills are an asset and will give me a lifetime of effective communication. I enjoy literature and I knew that this qualification would expose me to writing and speech in different forms. I strongly believe in breaking the barrier between languages and the only way for one to do that is to learn as many languages as one can.

This bursary will help me in getting my BTech and moving on to the corporate world for further exposure to translation or interpreting.

Kebawetse Moseounyana

Firstly, I would to thank SATI for the special privilege of receiving funds to further my knowledge and polish my interpreting skills.

It was a wonderful experience to be at the Wits Language School as one of those doing the Introduction to Interpreting Skills course in 2013. It gave me an opportunity to attend lectures by a qualified and experienced interpreter, who took us through the dynamics of interpreting while sharing educational and practical experiences, as well as giving lively theoretical lectures. At all times strict professionalism was maintained, and we learnt about the seriousness of our careers as well as the important roles we play as interpreters, regardless of how much communities may not notice. My classmates came from different parts of the country, and you can just imagine how lively it was learning



in such an environment. All the students would voice their opinions on a certain subject and the diversity and variety made the learning experience amazingly fruitful. The class consisted only of females, giving us an added element of freedom!



Ntobeko Ngcobo

Having learnt so much from the course, I have become aware that interpreting is actually perfected over time, probably a lifetime, if ever, because there is so much more involved in it than meets the eye – literally for us Sign Language interpreters. Nothing should be taken for granted as far as cultures are concerned.

These are just a few chosen words to illustrate how the assistance from SATI has contributed to this educational journey, not only for me but for many Deaf people out there who don't have a voice. They say "Education is the key", but how much is going to be achieved if we lack the basic element of communication, a common language? Would it not be fitting to say "Interpreting is the key"?

Nombuso Ncube



Nombuso Ncube

My name is Nombuso Precious Ncube and isiZulu is my home language. I was born and raised in KZN, and have always had a passion for languages. KZN is predominantly Zulu-speaking and with that limitation in local languages I was thrilled to move to Johannesburg in 2009.

I am now also able to speak Sesotho, IsiXhosa and Setswana. When I got the opportunity to study Translation and Interpreting I was ecstatic as I see this as a rapidly growing industry. I feel there is a need for translators and interpreters all over this country, e.g. in hospitals, courts, government institutions. When you look at it, people are more at ease when they know they can express themselves in their native language.

I have always been an interpreter/translator, thought I did not have a qualification. My work experience includes the hospitality and finance industries. Currently I work in the insurance sector, and our clients mainly want detailed explanations before they sign on the dotted line. I cannot wait to complete my course and have the qualification. It's a proud moment for me when I see people reaching an understanding and I have assisted in overcoming the communication barrier.



Jacob Nhlapo

I want to build a name for myself in the industry and one day venture abroad. My vision is to be able to interpret and translate languages like Mandarin, French and Portuguese. I am humbled to be awarded a

bursary, as this opens a window of opportunity for me. I was once told that sometimes all you need to do is just start a challenge and everything will work out. The sky is the limit!

Ntobeko Ngcobo

I am a student at the Durban University of Technology and a member of SATI. Perhaps calling myself a SATI member is an understatement, but calling myself SATI's son sounds much more prestigious. Why? Because the Institute's tirelessly assisting hand helping to ensure the absence of a lack of basic studying needs as I complete my ND: Translation and Interpreting Practice makes me feel more like a son than a member. I am currently a third-year student, which means I am on the point of completing my National Diploma, and SATI has been sponsoring me all the way through since my second year of study. I am proud to say today that I own a laptop through the bursary I have been receiving from SATI, and the same bursary has been of great help for transport fares to and from campus. One can say 'it's just a bursary', but objectively 'it's not just a bursary' – it adds something to your basic academic life that no ordinary man in the street could add. I never thought I would ever own a laptop while I was still studying; I thought I would be limited to computers in the lab, as happened during first year, before I got the bursary. All thanks to SATI for being such a help in my time of need. I am indeed sincerely humbled by the support!

Jacob Nhlapo

I am 21 years old and come from Winterveldt in Pretoria. I am doing my second year in Language Practice at Tshwane University of Technology. My home language is IsiZulu, but I also speak Setswana, IsiNdebele and Southern Sotho. As mentioned above, I am studying towards a National Diploma in Language Practice at Tshwane University of Technology. My Language Practice course offers a subject called Language and Translation Practice, where we translate texts from English into our native languages and also do editing in English and IsiZulu on a weekly basis. It is this subject that is teaching me to translate and edit, and that is where I get my interest in translation. I am studying towards this qualification because I acknowledge the fact that translation is vital in our daily lives and it is imperative that we have optimistic translators like myself. This bursary will help me to pursue my career in editing and translation – thank-you, SATI!

