Towards the Creation of a Dictionary Culture in South Africa

Michele Van Der Merwe, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
beneficiaries of terminology, institutions such as HSRC, CSIR, Science, Technology, Economics, Medicine, Education, etc.

4. Conclusion
The greatest challenge is to convince linguists/language workers that the public needs to know or to be involved in what is happening behind their language development walls. Unfortunately, no research has been carried out in South Africa to determine the level of interaction that linguists need to adopt with the public in order to create public understanding and support for research in language development issues. In the United Kingdom, however, the Science and Technology Select Committee of the House of Lords engaged a group of consultants to investigate this issue extensively, and to provide recommendation (cf. http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldselect/ldscitech/38/3801.htm).

In principle, this debate shows that language, like any other player in the public arena, ignores public attitudes and values at its peril. I feel that, by declaring the values which underpin their work, and by negotiating the values and attitudes of the public, linguists or language workers are far more likely to command public and government support.

References
Hansmann (1989:14) stresses the importance of lexicographical research to ensure that their lexicographical needs are met when dictionaries are compiled. Language communities in South Africa need their own lexicographical tools to develop their own languages and traditions. Lexicographical research is crucial for the development of dictionaries, which are essential tools for language learning and communication. The lexicographical landscape in South Africa is diverse and complex, with various languages and dialects requiring their own dictionaries. The establishment of a national dictionary council is important for coordinating the development of dictionaries across different languages.

1. **Lexicographical research and tools**

   Lexicographical research is necessary for the development of dictionaries. Dictionaries are not only tools for language learning but also cultural and linguistic heritage. The creation of a dictionary is a complex process that requires a multidisciplinary approach, involving linguists, lexicographers, and other experts.

2. **National dictionary council**

   The establishment of a national dictionary council is crucial for coordinating the development of dictionaries in South Africa. The council can help ensure that dictionaries are developed in a coordinated and systematic manner, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the country.

3. **Lexicographical practices and tools**

   Lexicographical practices and tools are essential for the development of dictionaries. These practices include the selection of words, the determination of their meanings, and the organization of content. The use of established linguistic theories and methods is crucial for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of dictionaries.

4. **Dictionaries and education**

   Dictionaries are an essential tool for education, providing students with a reliable source of language knowledge. In South Africa, dictionaries can help bridge the linguistic gaps between different language communities and promote language access and equality.

In conclusion, the establishment of a national dictionary council and the development of lexicographical research tools are crucial for ensuring that South African language communities have access to the resources they need for language learning and communication. Dictionaries are not only tools for language learning but also cultural and linguistic heritage. The development of dictionaries should be guided by established linguistic theories and methods to ensure their accuracy and reliability.
Establishing a dictionary culture in a country is about the interaction between lexicography and community. To achieve this, we need to publish user-friendly dictionaries that are currently being used in schools. This is crucial because dictionaries are needed more than ever in South Africa, especially with the growing number of learners and educators. A dictionary culture can be established by ensuring that all South Africans have access to these dictionaries. This will be beneficial for all those involved in communication scenarios.

References

International Processing: 82.2, Manchester: Oxford University Press.

6. A new culture of lexicography and dictionary culture. In the information and knowledge-based society of the 21st century, a new interaction between community and lexicography must be established. Dictionaries are needed more than ever in South Africa, especially with the growing number of learners and educators. A dictionary culture can be established by ensuring that all South Africans have access to these dictionaries. This will be beneficial for all those involved in communication scenarios.