

G.R. Dent and C.L.S. Nyembezi (Compilers). *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary. Eng.-Zulu; Zulu-Eng.*, 2nd edition 1988, 3rd impression 1991, 519 pp. ISBN 0 7960 0111 1. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter and Shooter. Price R29,05.

1. Introduction

The introduction to the *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary* is practically identical with that of the *Compact Zulu Dictionary*. The only additional information is that synonyms with phonological variants are defined under a single entry and some attention is also given to avoiding unnecessary listing of verbal extensions. Further, a list of abbreviations used in the identification of the various entries in the dictionary is also given.

The *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary* is a translation dictionary explaining Zulu words in English and English words in Zulu.

2. Entries

The dictionary contains a very good selection of English vocabulary comprising a large number of commonly used words. The acquisition and mastery of an equivalent number of Zulu words would give the user a very good vocabulary in the latter language.

There is an imbalance in the quantity and quality of entries in the two languages. There are more English vocabulary items than Zulu ones. A balance in the number of entries from the two languages would have enhanced the quality of the dictionary.

The dictionary has a very large collection of Zulu idiomatic expressions. It is one of the largest I have seen in a Zulu dictionary.

There is some inconsistency in the entry of idioms. The key verb stem is not always given in the infinitive form in the *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary*.

3. "Parts of Speech"

The entry of Zulu parts of speech presents problems in this dictionary. The inclusion of derivative nouns and verbs in a Zulu dictionary is unwieldy and cumbersome.¹ Ideally, only those derivatives that have attained an independent meaning from the primary word should be entered.

The inclusion of demonstratives and locative demonstratives in the dictionary is inappropriate. These can be described in the preface of the dictionary.

The dictionary fails to distinguish nouns with full prefixes from those shorn of the first syllable in noun classes *ma-*, *lu-*, and *bu-*. The latter are identi-

fied either as adverbs or relatives, apparently without any connection with their counterparts viz. primary nouns.²

4. Homonyms

The homonyms³ such as *-funda*, *-futha*, *gquma*, *-qweba*, *-thunga*, *-hlahla* are classified as synonyms. This classification causes two types of problems:

- (1) the conflation of variant forms of verbs, e.g. the mergence of a derivative form with a primary one. The following stems illustrate this:

- fela*: 1. die for/on behalf of (derived)
2. spit (primary)
-fisa: 1. fake death (derived)
2. desire/covet (primary)

- (2) the fusion of variant types of verbs, e.g.

- futha*: 1. blow/inflate (activity verb)
2. throb (pain) (stative)
-hlahla: 1. cut down (activity verb)
2. clarify (stative)

5. Conclusion

Notwithstanding some negative features noted above, the *Scholar's Zulu Dictionary* is a worthy contribution to the technique of compiling translation dictionaries.

Notes

- 1 The entry of so-called adverbs, locatives, conjunctives, pronouns, the relative, adjective etc. in the dictionary is unnecessary.
2 *amankonovana*, *amanzi*, *uluzezu*, *ulukhuni*, *ubushelelezi*, and *ubuthaka* show a clear relationship with the derivations.
3 Each of these stems comprises a pair.

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