

M.O. Mbatha (Editor). *Isichazamazwi SesiZulu*. 2006, vi + 1353 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1-919959-84-9. ISBN-10: 1-919959-84-x. Pietermaritzburg: New Dawn Publishers. Price: R450 (Hb.), R250 (Sb.).

1. Introduction: Comprehensiveness/Representativeness of the dictionary

This is a significant and commendable contribution to the development of Zulu lexicography in general, and Zulu monolingual dictionaries in particular. There could not have been a better time for the publication of such a work dealing with a language whose lexicon expands daily. As stated by the editor, this work was started at the University of KwaZulu (oNgoye) in 1997 and resulted in two volumes edited by Prof. A.C. Nkabinde, namely *Isichazamazwi I* and *Isichazamazwi II* which appeared in 1982 and 1985 respectively. According to the editor, *Isichazamazwi SesiZulu* is an extension of the previous two volumes. However, because of the many changes and additions made to these volumes, it was decided to integrate these into the present compilation, consisting of about 21 000 entries.

2. Expected users

As the editor rightly claims, this dictionary will undoubtedly be an invaluable tool to everybody, from general users, to learners at school, university students, researchers and anybody in need of the explanation of words from different subject fields.

The compilers of *Isichazamazwi SesiZulu* have in good measure succeeded in this objective, for they have included

- words commonly used by people in their everyday speech.
- loan-words which people use in their daily encounters with others in various businesses and trades, e.g. *uthela* 'bank teller', *umeselane* 'builder', etc.
- neologisms referring to new concepts not previously known to the Zulu speech community, e.g. *umkhukhu* 'shack', etc.
- idiomatic expressions, e.g. *ukuthathela phezulu* 'to act high-handedly'; *ukubhekwa yidlozi* 'to find luck'; etc.
- proverbs, e.g. *Umuthi ugotshwa usemanzi* 'a child is disciplined whilst he/she is still young', *Ubude abuphangwa* 'Rome was not built in a day', etc.
- Latin equivalents for Zulu names of animals and plants, e.g. *uxamu* *Monitor niloticus*, *iminya* *Halleria lucida*, etc.

3. Lemmatisation

Word categories to which entries belong have been indicated as follows:

- nouns: **bz** (abbreviation for *ibizo*)
- verbs: **sz** (abbreviation for *isenzo*)
- interjectives: **bbz** (abbreviation for *isibabazo*)
- ideophones: **szk** (abbreviation for *isenzukuthi*)

The stems of the above-mentioned word categories, given in bold letters and arranged in alphabetical order, have been used for entries. For nouns, an italicised noun prefix has been added to each stem. The adding of the noun prefix will enable the user to identify the prefix with which a certain stem could be used. If a stem occurs with various prefixes, separate entries are made that show the various prefixes occurring with the specific stem, e.g. *í(lí)daka* 'dry cattle dung', *ísídaka* 'black soil', *ú(lú)daka* 'mud', *úkúdaka* 'to become drunk' and *úm(u)daka* 'heavy, brown bracelet, bestowed as royal honour'. However, since only a singular noun prefix is given with each stem, this might be problematic, especially to users who are not mother-tongue speakers, because they might not know what the plural form of the specific word is.

Additional information has been given in the form of symbols used next to words for the user to distinguish the various word forms, for example:

- to indicate words which have a singular form only, the marker † has been used, e.g. *ísinyama†* 'bad luck', *ú(lu)sinsi†* 'hair growing low on the forehead'.
- to indicate words which have a plural form only, the marker ‡ has been added, e.g. *ámánconzuncônzu‡* 'pieces taken off gradually', *ízishaqane‡* 'a lot of paper money'.
- to indicate loan-words, the marker * has been used, e.g. *í(lí)fasíkoti** 'apron', *úmesisi** 'a white married woman'.
- to indicate *hlonipha* words (i.e. words that are avoided by certain sections of the speech community), the marker x has been added, e.g. *úkúkhíjāx* 'to walk', *ínethax* 'rain'.
- to indicate neologisms, the marker ° has been added, e.g. *í(lí)bhoklóló°* 'a brave, confident male', *úbúcwēbe°* 'jewellery'.

Tone has also been indicated by means of the symbol ´ to mark high tone, e.g. *úkúgíya* 'dance', *ísíwula* 'fool'; and the symbol ^ to mark a combination of high and low tones, e.g. *úbulâwu* 'love potion', *í(lí)hlûle* 'clot'.

Words which contain the syllabic nasal *m*, are identified by the inclusion of the elided vowel *u* written in brackets, e.g. *úm(ú)lotha* 'ash', *úm(ú)fula* 'river'.

If words have different pronunciations, these pronunciations are given,

e.g. *ímbokodo*(e) 'grinding stone', pronounced as *ímbokodo* or as *ímbokode*, and *ú(lú)bongiyâne* (i)^x 'bee', pronounced as *ú(lú)bongiyâne* or as *ú(lú)bongiyâni*.

All the verbal extensions of a particular verb have been given in parenthesis, e.g. *úkúlobola* (sz) [-an-, -el-, -ek-, -is-, -w-]. However, variants of words which are the result of phonological processes such as the passive construction have been omitted, e.g. *úkúlobola* which changes to *úkúlotsholwa* in the passive.

Definitions of words immediately follow grammatical information such as word category and extensions. If a word has more than one meaning, the various meanings, polysemous or homonymous, are numbered by bold Arabic figures and listed one after the other, e.g.

úkúfunda (sz) [...] **1.** ukufaka iqatha noma umthamo emlonyeni 'to swallow chewed food'. **2.** ukuhamba isikole uphokophele ukuthola ulwazi 'to go to school in order to gain knowledge'. **3.** ukuthamunda noma ukubuka lokho okubhaliwe bese ukuqeketha ngomlomo noma ukuthamunde buthule 'to read'. **4.** ukuvuleka ingqondo 'to be alert'.

If a word is synonymous, its synonym or synonyms are given after each definition, e.g. *úkúdina* is treated as follows:

úkúdina (sz) [...] **1.** ukubangela ukucasuka 'to cause a feeling of disgust'; ukucasula 'to disgust'; ukunenga 'to disgust'; ukucunula 'to disgust'. **2.** ukuqeda amandla 'to exhaust'; ukufakela ukukhathala 'to make tired'; ukukhathaza 'to tire'.

Each of these synonyms are lemmatised as separate entries and do not refer back to *úkúdina*, e.g. *úkucasula* (sz) ukwenza umuntu ukuthi athukuthele 'to make someone angry', and *úkúnenga* (sz) ukwenza umuntu acasuke 'to disgust someone'.

Definitions are supplemented by sentences in italics, to show how the words are used in context, e.g. to illustrate the use of the first sense of *úkúdina* in context, the following sentence has been given: *Ayangidina amanga akho*. 'Your lies disgust me' and the use of the second sense is illustrated by the sentence: *Umsebenzi esabe siwenza wasidina sonke ...* 'The work that we did exhausted us all ...'

If a word can be used figuratively, the idioms or proverbs formed with the specific word are given. Anyone consulting the dictionary will easily identify idiomatic expressions marked by the abbreviation *ssh* (*isisho*), e.g. *ukudla amathambo ekhanda* (*ssh*) 'to think', *ukudla amabele* (*ssh*) 'to be alive', and proverbs indicated by the abbreviation *sg* (*isaga*), e.g. *Inja iyawaqeda amanzi ngolimi* (*sg*) 'perseverance leads to success' (*Inja*) *ithi ingahamba udle udaka* (*sg*) 'a hungry person can do anything.'

4. Conclusion

The compilers of this dictionary should be congratulated on this achievement in Zulu lexicography. However, it should be noted that technology has brought with it many terms, such as the computer-related terms *mouse*, *e-mail*, *internet*, etc., which have not been included in the dictionary. This should be borne in mind when a revised edition of the dictionary is produced. In view of the size and extent of the dictionary, it would be of great help to users if a CD-ROM could accompany the paper dictionary. This would be in line with modern trends.

Rose Masubelele
Department of African Languages
University of South Africa
Pretoria
Republic of South Africa
(masubmr@unisa.ac.za)