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## 'n Woord van AFRILEX

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Een van die doelstellings van AFRILEX is om leksikografie op 'n breë front in Suidelike Afrika te bevorder. AFRILEX stel hom ten doel om leksikograwe, terminoloë en ander taalpraktisyns op te lei in verskeie aspekte rakende leksikografiese beginsels en praktyk. Dit streef ook daarna om jaarliks internasionale konferensies en plaaslike seminare te organiseer oor onderwerpe wat op 'n bepaalde tydstip tersaaklik is. Die Agste Internasionale AFRILEX-konferensie wat van 7 tot 9 Julie 2003 in Windhoek, Namibië gehou is, het baie aktuele onderwerpe behandel en was 'n groot sukses. As mondstuk van AFRILEX bevorder *Lexikos* die leksikografie in sy breedste betekenis.

As lede van AFRILEX is ons almal by die samestelling van woordeboeke betrokke, alhoewel in verskillende soorte woordeboekwerk of -projekte, in adviserende hoedanighede, of bloot weens die liefde vir of verslaafdheid aan leksikografie:

- sommige is lede van die leksikografiespanne van die elf Nasionale Leksikografie-eenhede (NLE's);
- sommige is besig met die samestelling van terminologielyste of vakwoordeboeke vir die vaktale;
- sommige is lede van adviesliggame (bv. lede van die Pan-Suid-Afrikaanse Taalraad (PanSAT), lede van PanSAT-subkomitees vir verskeie fokusgebiede, lede van die Beheerrade van die NLE's, lede van die Nasionale Taalliggame (NTL'e), en lede van die Provinsiale Taalkomitees (PTK's));
- sommige is lede van taalkantore, bv. die Nasionale Taaldiens (NTD), die Terminologiekoördineringsafdeling (TKA), ens.;
- sommige is dosente verbonde aan tersiêre instellings wat kursusse in metaleksikografie en terminologie aanbied;
- sommige is studente in leksikografie en terminologie; en
- sommige is taalpraktisyns soos vertalers, redigeerders, tolke, taalonderwysers en joernaliste — dié mense wat nie hul spesifieke werk sonder die hulp van woordeboeke kan doen nie.

Die punt wat ek graag wil stel, is dat nie een van ons onpartydig teenoor leksikografie staan nie en ons is almal geïnteresseerd in die artikels wat in hierdie dertiende uitgawe van *Lexikos* opgeneem is om meer te leer van leksikografie, woordeboeke en hoe om woordeboeke saam te stel en ten beste te benut.

Die inhoud van hierdie uitgawe van die vaktydskrif is baie aktueel, veral vir ons NLE's. Ons weet almal dat 'n leksikograaf en terminograaf in die spesifieke behoeftes van die woordeboekgebruiker moet voorsien. Woordeboeksaamstellers moet weet wie hul teikengebruikers is en moet hulle op hoogte bring van die gebruikers se behoeftes. Dit moet beklemtoon word dat woordeboeke

gebruikersvriendelik moet wees en dat gebruikers maklike toegang tot en verkryging van woordeboekinligting moet hê. Dit is slegs enkele van die brandende vraagstukke wat onder andere deur die NLE's ervaar word. U sal sekerlik artikels in *Lexikos* vind wat hierdie sake aanspreek, want 'n blik op die inhoudsopgawe toon groot belofte: bekwame navorsers behandel verskeie baie tersaaklike onderwerpe.

Ter afsluiting wil ek graag beklemtoon dat ons 'n verantwoordelikheid het teenoor die verskeie spraakgemeenskappe wat ons dien. 'n Woordeboekkultuur behoort ontwikkel te word en spraakgemeenskappe behoort bewus te wees van AFRILEX, en van PanSAT en sy strukture soos die elf Nasionale Leksikografie-eenhede (NLE's), die dertien Nasionale Taalliggame (NTL'e), die nege Provinsiale Taalkomitees (PTK's), en van die Terminologiekoördineringsafdeling (TKA) van die Nasionale Taaldiens (NTD), Departement van Kuns en Kultuur (DKK), asook van hul verskillende doelstellings. Die NLE's behoort ook by skole en tersiêre instansies bekendgestel te word. Woordeboekgebruikersvermoëns kan ontwikkel en aangeleer word as opvoeders soos onderwysers en dosente en diegene wat opgelei word, soos leerders en studente, bewus is van die werk wat by die NLE's gedoen word. Indien al die taalstrukture aan die algemene publiek bekend is en al die werk wat deur hierdie liggame gedoen word op die beoogde virtuele netwerk vir Mensliketaaltegnologie beskikbaar kan wees, sal hierdie streek in 'n posisie wees om ons tale te bewaar en hulle as funksionele tale in alle lewensfere te ontwikkel. Eers dan sal die verskillende taalgemeenskappe in staat wees om hul kommunikasievermoëns te ontwikkel.

Ek wil graag van die geleentheid gebruik maak om die Buro van die *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT) te bedank vir die publisering van *Lexikos* en 'n spesiale woord van dank aan dr. J.C.M.D. du Plessis vir sy uitstekende werk as redakteur van die vaktydskrif.

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## A Few Words from AFRILEX

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One of the aims of AFRILEX is to promote lexicography on a wide front in Southern Africa. AFRILEX aims to train lexicographers, terminologists and other language practitioners in various aspects relating to lexicographical principles and practice. Its objective also is to organise annual international conferences and local seminars on topics relevant at a specific time. The Eighth International AFRILEX Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 7 to 9 July 2003, as with previous AFRILEX conferences and seminars, dealt with very topical issues and proved to be a great success. *Lexikos*, as mouthpiece of AFRILEX, also serves to promote lexicography in its broadest sense.

As members of AFRILEX we are all involved in dictionary compilation although in different kinds of dictionary work or projects, in advisory capacities, or for the mere love of or addiction to lexicography:

- some are members of the lexicography teams for the eleven National Lexicography Units (NLUs);
- some are busy compiling terminology lists or technical dictionaries for Languages for Special Purposes (LSP);
- some are members of advisory bodies (e.g. members of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), members of PanSALB Subcommittees for various focus areas, members of the Boards of Directors of the NLUs, members of National Language Bodies (NLBs), and members of Provincial Language Committees (PLCs)) ;
- some are members of language offices, e.g. the National Language Service (NLS), the Terminology Coordination Section (TCS), etc.;
- some are lecturers at tertiary institutions who teach courses in metalexicography and terminology;
- some are students of lexicography and terminology; and
- some are language practitioners such as translators, editors, interpreters, language teachers and journalists — those people who cannot do their specific jobs without the assistance of dictionaries.

The point I would like to make, is that none of us are impartial towards lexicography and we are all interested in the articles included in this thirteenth issue of *Lexikos* to learn more about lexicography, dictionaries and how to compile dictionaries and use them to our best advantage.

The contents of this issue of the journal are very relevant, especially to our NLUs. We all know that a lexicographer or terminographer have to address the specific needs of the dictionary user. Dictionary compilers should know who their target users are and should familiarise themselves with the users' needs. It should be stressed that dictionaries should be user-friendly and that users

should be able easily to access and retrieve dictionary information. These are only a few of the burning issues experienced by *inter alia* the NLUs. You will certainly find articles in *Lexikos* that will address these issues because a glance at the table of contents shows great promise: competent researchers address various very relevant topics.

In conclusion I would like to stress that we have a responsibility towards the various speech communities we serve. A dictionary culture needs to be developed and speech communities should be aware of AFRILEX, of PanSALB and its structures such as the eleven National Lexicography Units (NLUs), the thirteen National Language Bodies (NLBs), the nine Provincial Language Committees (PLCs), and of the Terminology Coordination Section (TCS) of the National Language Service (NLS), Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), as well as their different objectives. The NLUs should also be promoted in schools and tertiary institutions. Dictionary-using skills can be developed and acquired if educators such as teachers and lecturers and trainees such as learners and students are aware of the work being done at the NLUs. If all the language structures are known to the general public and all the work of these bodies can be available on the envisaged Human Language Technology virtual network, this region would be in a position to preserve our languages and develop them as functional languages in all spheres of life. Only then will the various language communities be in a position to develop their communication skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bureau of the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT) for the publication of *Lexikos* and a special word of thanks to Dr J.C.M.D. du Plessis for his excellent work as editor of the journal.

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