



UNIVERSITY OF  
**KWAZULU-NATAL**™  
INYUVESI  
**YAKWAZULU-NATALI**

# Translanguaging Seminar: University of Free State

Presentation Theme:

Development of Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme: The Importance of Understanding Translanguaging

20 July, 2022

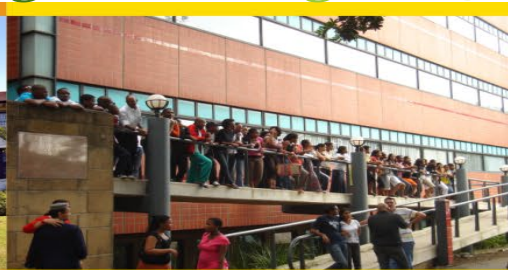
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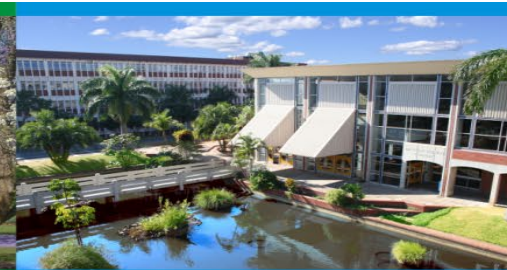
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UKZN INSPIRING GREATNESS

# From what Basis did we develop Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme?

- ▶ It had to be academic staff members from the School of Education, and from the Discipline of isiZulu Education.
  - ▶ Language Pedagogy is the key
- ▶ From the Discipline of isiZulu Education, it had to be academic staff members whose research interests are, among other things, on the following:
  - ▶ Language Policy
  - ▶ Bilingual Education/Multilingual Education
  - ▶ Second Language Acquisition
  - ▶ Sociolinguistics and Education
- ▶ All UKZN academic staff members have to understand the UKZN Language Policy, thus, all Schools and different Departments/Disciplines have Language Champions.

# Why starting by the Development of Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme?

- ▶ **Teaching** occurs during lectures, and **learning** occurs during tutorials.
- ▶ During lectures, the medium of instruction is mostly English, except in isiZulu Modules and in both Schools of Arts and Education.
- ▶ During lectures, and where the teaching takes place, English is a barrier to most isiZulu students, and for several reasons.
- ▶ During tutorials, students are divided into small groups, and the atmosphere allows them to have conversation about the subject content with their peers.
- ▶ Therefore, tutorial sessions are defined as “*ukufunda-kuxoxisana*”, a term we developed to mean “**learning through conversation**”.
- ▶ A conversation happens is a form of a dialogue.
  - ▶ Which also means;
    - ▶ The **negotiation of meaning/s**
    - ▶ The **exchange of ideas**
- ▶ Students, therefore, can successfully do that in the language/s that is known to them, e.g. isiZulu, is the case of UKZN.
- ▶ At UKZN, it is compulsory for all students to enroll in at least one isiZulu Module, for communication purposes, and to fulfil the UKZN Language Policy.

# Brief Definition of Pedagogy

- ▶ The term, Pedagogy, originates from the Greeks, to mean “child” and “lead” = “to lead the child” (Longenecker 1983: 53; Smith 2006).
- ▶ In Ancient Greece, a slave (paidagogos) was assigned to a wealthy master’s son to prepare him to become good citizen and to be part of public life of the state.
- ▶ John Dewey (1963) explains Pedagogy as a strategy used to pass on new knowledge that is also discovered from community members.
- ▶ Pedagogy is a field in education that teaches the theories and skills to enable an individual to become a teacher who is able to explain new knowledge to the students (Paulo Freire, 1972).
- ▶ In short, Pedagogy is an approach used to strategise the thinking of a student and create attitudes that leads to discovery and understanding of new knowledge.

# Understanding Pedagogy in South Africa

- ▶ According to Bruner (1996: 44-65) Pedagogy can easily be used as a means of control.
  - ▶ In Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme, we first start off by enlightening to our tutor trainees that any module offered at the University or School, is not English, nor Afrikaans, nor isiZulu, nor isiXhosa, nor SeSotho, nor SePedi, etc.
  - ▶ For example, Geography is NOT a Language, but it is a subject on its own, and that can be taught and learned through any language.
- ▶ In South Africa, the nature of former Apartheid Pedagogy was Eurocentric and oppressive.
- ▶ In the new dispensation, in our Democratic Government, we should now be witnessing what we call Liberation Pedagogy, as opposed to Oppressive Pedagogy, we witnessed during Apartheid Era.
- ▶ Our current South African Government has now created an atmosphere where teaching and learning (Pedagogy) has to attempt to promote social justice and social cohesion to all.
- ▶ Consequently, all Educators, including Tutors are encouraged to become agents of change and to implement change, hence, the development of Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme.
- ▶ Our trainee tutors, therefore, have to be trained to understand this change in Pedagogy depends, in order to be able to facilitate our students' learning experiences to match their own life circumstances/experiences, through the use of English-isiZulu Bilingual Tutoring Programme.

# Benefits of Bilingual Education

- ▶ In the case of UKZN, the aim is to develop and enhance isiZulu as medium of instruction side by side with English as per the advocacy of the University's Language Policy, and not to replace English.
- ▶ For isiZulu speaking students, the development of our Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme, through Bilingual Education Approache/s, supports our students by increasing their access to the curriculum by our isiZulu speaking students.
- ▶ During Bilingual Tutoring, tutors must assist student to analyse and explain complex and scientific concepts for themselves, using their mother tongue to clarify scientific concepts.
- ▶ To engage in this kind of communication/exercise, tutors must be prepared to go beyond the use of basic/conversational isiZulu to communicate/interact with students during the Tutorials.

# Understanding of translanguaging in the development of Bilingual Tutoring Training Programme

## The Main Objectives:

- ▶ Our trainee tutors have to understand that they are not being trained to facilitate students' learning by translating or interpreting their subjects' content in isiZulu.
- ▶ They have to understand also that they are not being trained to facilitate students' learning by code-switching or code-mixing between English and isiZulu.
- ▶ They have to understand what translanguaging is, how to use it, why they have to use, and when they have to use it.
- ▶ For each and every bilingual tutorial session they are being trained to facilitate, they have to pronounce their aims and objectives, which is deeply grounded on the sharing of ideas and dialoging about the subject content knowledge in the languages they are comfortable using, without code-switching or code mixing, and translating the languages at their disposal.

# Translanguaging in bilingual tutoring or education

## Translanguaging:

- ▶ Is a process whereby multi- or bi-lingual speakers utilise their languages as an **integrated communication system**.
- ▶ Is a dynamic process in which multi- or bi-lingual language users navigate **complex social** and **cognitive demands** through strategic employment of multiple languages.
- ▶ **Conveys ideas more easily** and accomplishing lessons or tutorial sessions
- ▶ In translanguaging languages **mix and dissolve** into each other / one another
- ▶ Moves us away from **dominant political and ideological pressures** to keep “languages pure” and separate.
- ▶ It is therefore important that our Bilingual Tutor Trainees understand the end goal of their Bilingual Tutoring duties, that it is not meant to switch or mix language codes, nor to translate or interpret the content, but to develop and enhance the subject content learning by their students through the use of both the language they are taught in during lectures, and the language they own to participate and own their learning.
- ▶ The end-goal is to develop them to participate and to become the owners of their own learning.



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**NGIYABONGA!**

**THANK YOU!**