From bakkies to takkies, amabokoboko to zozo huts:

an ‘A to Z’ of indexing text in South Africa

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write edit index
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bakkies (‘utes’) old and new

from *bak* (Afrikaans) = basin or bowl → always used in the diminutive form (a term of endearment?) → ‘batterproof bakkie’ in adverts!
takkies/tackies
(sandshoes or plimsolls)

takkie/tackie (from Afrikaans)
Also known colloquially in SA as ‘tennis shoes’

Are they the same as ‘sneakers’?
Amabokoboko
(the Springboks, or Boks)

Dates to as recently as 1995, when the Springboks beat New Zealand in the Rugby World Cup, in the presence of the newly elected President, Nelson Mandela.
A unique name/invention: the Zozo hut
Challenges for the indexer

From TWO official languages pre-1994

- English
- Afrikaans

To ELEVEN official languages post-1994

Major
1. IsiZulu 22.7
2. IsiXhosa 16.0
3. Afrikaans 13.5
4. English 9.6
5. Sepedi 9.1

Minor
6. Setswana 8.0
7. Sesotho 7.6
8. Xitsonga 4.5
9. siSwati 2.6
10. Tshivenda 2.4
11. isiNdebele 2.1
Challenges for the indexer

• Place name changes:

(1) Anglicised place names revert to ‘traditional’ African names:
  • Umtata ➔ Mthatha (formerly Umtata)
  • Cofimvaba ➔ eCofimvaba (formerly ...)

(2) English/Afrikaans place names replaced with African names:
  • Bloemfontein ➔ Mangaung
  • Cape Town ➔ iKapa
African lexicon: traditional or ‘indigenised’ form?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>IsiXhosa Trad./formal</th>
<th>IsiXhosa ‘Indigenised’</th>
<th>Sesotho Trad./formal</th>
<th>Sesotho ‘Indigenised’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>document</strong></td>
<td>uxwebhu</td>
<td>idotyhumenti</td>
<td>sengolwa</td>
<td>tokomane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>morpheme</strong></td>
<td>ilungu legama</td>
<td>imofim</td>
<td>lebopi</td>
<td>mofimi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>motorcar</strong></td>
<td>inqwelo-mafutha</td>
<td>imoto</td>
<td>koloi</td>
<td>motorokara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>phone/phone</strong></td>
<td>umnxeba</td>
<td>ifowuni/iselula</td>
<td>mohala</td>
<td>founu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>cellphone</strong></td>
<td>izandizamazwi</td>
<td>ifonetiki</td>
<td>thutamodumo</td>
<td>fonetiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>phonetics</strong></td>
<td>umthamo</td>
<td>ivolyum</td>
<td>mothamo</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which form should the author be using in context (eg fiction vs non-fiction)?
And using consistently?
Challenges for the indexer

Do I treat as foreign and italicise?

Depends upon:
- origin: Afrikaans/Dutch/Indian/Bantu/Malay/Portuguese
- intended readership: SA or international?
- treatment in the text itself (eg Pieter-Dirk Uys’s plays)

Do I provide a synonym for the benefit of the reader?

Depends upon:
- whether integrated into standard (world) English (donga vs *itafeli*)
- treatment in the text itself (eg glossary of words/terms used in a second or third language)
The influence of Dutch

In SAE, these words will be indexed without italics or translations.

Dutch
• Holbol .................................
• Drosdy/landdrost ..............
• Voetstoots .............................
• Banket ..................................

South African English
• Holbol = concave/convex (curves on a Cape Dutch gable)
• Drosdy = residence/office of a magistrate
• Voetstoots = purchase as is, with all patent and latent defects (of property)
• Banket/conglomerate
banket

From the Dutch for a type of fancy confectionery ... an encrustation of nuts

... became a mining term in colonial South Africa after 1886 (the discovery of gold), for the precious-metal bearing soil and rock, or conglomerate
The influence of Malay

In SAE, these words will be indexed without italics or translations.

Malay words incorporated

• Bredie
• Rondavel/rondawel
• Smoor
• Sosatie

Do we index **Sosatie (kebab)**?

into South African English

• Bredie = stew
• Rondavel/rondawel = round mud hut with thatched roof (dewala = wall, rond = round)
• Smoor = braise (meat or fish)
• Sosatie = kebab

Do we index **Rondavel**?
A typical rondavel or rondawel inhabited by Nguni tribespeople
The influence of Afrikaans

In SAE, these words will be indexed without italics or translations.

Afrikaans word imported directly

- Biltong
- Bokkom
- ‘Bossies’
- Braai(vleis)
- Jol
- Koeksister
- Padkos
- Sarmie (or sarmie, saamie)

into South African English

- = Dried, cured meat
- = Dried, cured fish
- = Driven to distraction by active military service
- = Barbecue, barby
- = Revelry, fun, party
- = deep-fried, plaited sweetmeat soaked in syrup
- = food for a journey, provisions
- = sandwich
Koeksister:
no English equivalent
a plaited sweetmeat that’s deep fried then soaked in syrup – wonderfully onomatapoeic, too!
Catering for prefixes in Bantu languages

‘Sotho’

- Basotho ........................................
- Sesotho ........................................
- Mosotho .......................................
- Lesotho .......................................  
- amaXhosa ........................................

- Question: How do we index these terms? Individually as headwords or grouped under a generic headword?

Prefixes denote meaning ...

- The people as tribe/nation
- The language
- The people as individuals
- The land of the Sotho
- The group or tribe/nation

- One indexing solution: Under the headword ‘Sotho’
  - Basotho
  - Lesotho
  - Mosotho
  - Sesotho
African languages: Dealing with prefixes

Should the names of African languages be prefixed or not? (Cf German vs Deutsch.)

- isiXhosa OR Xhosa?
- isiZulu OR Zulu?
- isiNdebele OR Ndebele?
- Sepedi OR Pedi?
- Setswana OR Tswana?
- Tshivenda OR Venda
- Xitsonga OR Tsonga?
African languages: place names as equivalents of Eng/Afr

**Some examples of variances:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eng/Afr</th>
<th>IsiXhosa</th>
<th>Sesotho</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape</td>
<td>iPhondo (geog)</td>
<td>Kapa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>eThekwini</td>
<td>Thekong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>eKhimbali</td>
<td>Khimbali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name changes since 1994:**

| Pretoria         | Tshwane                       |
| Pietersburg      | Polokwane                     |
| Northern Province| Limpopo                       |
| Ellisras         | Bela-Bela                     |

Implications for indexers?
Traditional African place names: prefixed (articles)

Where do you place such names in an index?

IsiXhosa    Sesotho
eCofimvaba  ha Masopha
eNgqamakwe  habatshweu
kuQoboqobo  Thabong
kuTsolo     Meqeleng
kwaLanga    Langa
KwaZulu-Natal KwaZulu-Natal
Influence of Indian languages on English lexicon

- dhania
- isel
- thanni
- banya + chow
- proposed
- future

- coriander or selantro
- flying ant
- a card game
- bunny chow
- an engaged person
- husband/wife-to-be

These words are all likely to be indexed as their English forms, thus: Flying ant (isel).
Influence of Indian/Indian English: how do we index such terms?

*bunny chow:*
a hollowed-out half-loaf of bread filled with meat or vegetable curry, as a takeaway

Possible index entries:
Bunny chow
Bunny chow (hollowed, filled half-loaf)
Takeaways
   bunny chow
Uniquely South African lexicon

How should we deal with such SAE words in an index?

- Bioscope
- Bonsella
- Casspir
- Informal settlement
- Jol
- Robots
- Traffic circle
- Sharp, sharp
- Pictures; movies
- Bonus, reward, gratuity
- Armoured troop-carrier
- A housing settlement comprising makeshift houses without services
- Fun; revels
- Traffic lights
- Roundabout
- Greeting, affirmation
Somewhere in the Rainbow Nation is an ideal index waiting to be ... Thank you. Are there any questions?

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