

# 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!



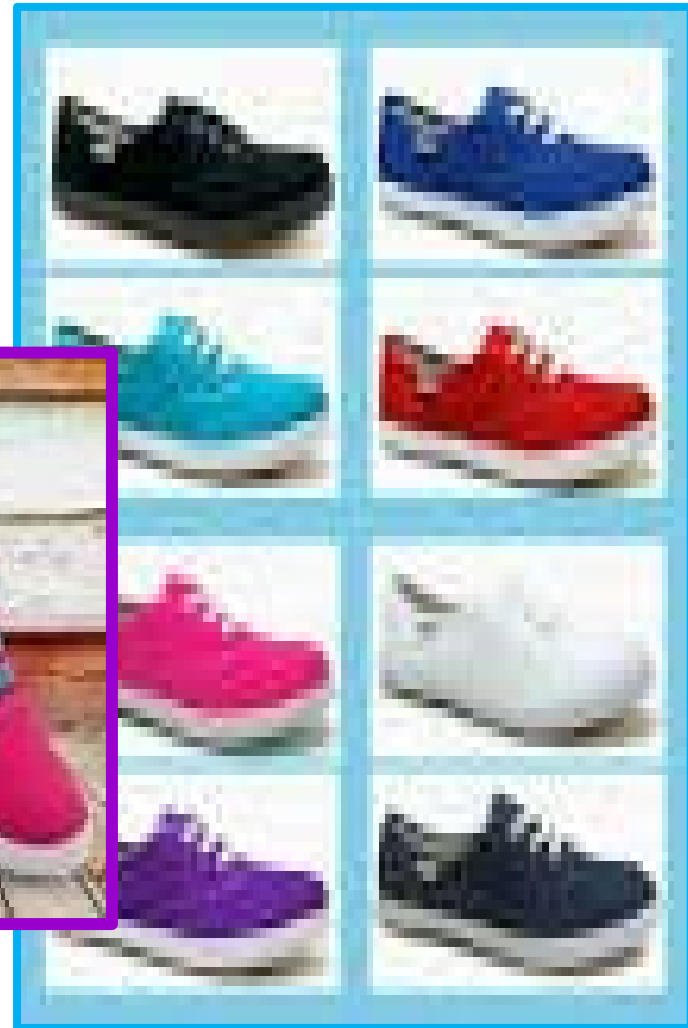
# *takkies/tackies*

(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**

<b>Major</b>		<b>% (2011)</b>
1	IsiZulu	22.7
2	IsiXhosa	16.0
3	Afrikaans	13.5
4	English	9.6
5	Sepedi	9.1
<b>Minor</b>		
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?

English	IsiXhosa		Sesotho	
	<i>Trad./formal</i>	<i>'Indigenised'</i>	<i>Trad./formal</i>	<i>'Indigenised'</i>
<i>document</i>	uxwebhu	idotyhumenthi	sengolwa	tokomane
<i>morpheme</i>	ilungu legama	imofim	lebopi	mofimi
<i>motorcar</i>	inqwelo-mafutha	imoto	koloi	motorokara
<i>phone/ cellphone</i>	umnxeba	ifowuni/iselula	mohala	founu
<i>phonetics</i>	izandizamazwi	ifonetiki	thutamodumo	fonetiki
<i>volume</i>	umthamo	ivolium	mothamo	volume

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

# *basket*

**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 onomatopoeic, 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:*

**Eng/Afr**

Cape

Durban

Kimberley

**isiXhosa**

iPhondo (geog)

eThekwini

eKhimbali

**Sesotho**

Kapa

Thekong

Khimbali

*Name changes since 1994:*

Pretoria

Pietersburg

Northern Province

Ellisras

Tshwane

Polokwane

Limpopo

Bela-Bela



Implications for indexers?

# **Traditional African place names: prefixed (articles)**

*Where do you place such names in an index?*

## **IsiXhosa**

eCofimvaba

eNgqamakwe

kuQoboqobo

kuTsolo

kwaLanga

KwaZulu-Natal

## **Sesotho**

ha Masopha

habatshweu

Thabong

Meqeleng

Langa

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

- 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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