



# SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2005

**Fourth report** on the South African  
Language Rights Monitor Project  
*1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005*

Susan Lombaard, Johan Lubbe  
and Theo du Plessis

*sb*

# SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2005

Fourth report on the South African  
Language Rights Monitor Project

1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005

Compiled for PanSALB by  
Mrs Susan Lombaard, Proff. Johan Lubbe  
and Theo du Plessis

*sb* **SUNBONANI  
SCHOLAR**

*South African Language Rights Monitor 2005*

*First report on the South African Language Rights Monitor Project*

Published by Sun Media Bloemfontein (Pty) Ltd

Imprint: SunBonani Scholar

All rights reserved

Copyright © 2011 Sun Media Bloemfontein and Department of Language Management and Language Practice, University of the Free State

The author and the publisher have made every effort to obtain permission for and acknowledge the use of copyrighted material. Refer all inquiries to the publisher.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any electronic, photographic or mechanical means, including photocopying and recording on record, tape or laser disk, on microfilm, via the Internet, by e-mail, or by any other information storage and retrieval system, without prior written permission by the publisher.

Views reflected in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

First edition 2011

ISBN: 978-1-920382-00-1 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-920382-08-7 (e-book)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781920382087>

Set in Constantia 11/14 pt

Cover design, typesetting and production by Sun Media Bloemfontein

Research, academic and reference works are published under this imprint in print and electronic format.

This printed copy can be ordered directly from: [media@sunbonani.co.za](mailto:media@sunbonani.co.za)

The e-book is available at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781920382087>

# Contents

Acknowledgements .....	i
1. Introduction .....	1
2. Methodology .....	1
3. Media coverage on language issues during 2005 .....	5
3.1. Language distribution of records .....	5
3.2. Types of records .....	7
3.3. Categories of media coverage .....	9
3.3.1. Focus on name changes .....	11
3.3.2. Focus on language problems .....	19
3.3.3. Focus on language promotion .....	29
3.3.4. Focus on language research .....	32
3.3.5. Focus on language renovation .....	33
4. Language-related complaints lodged with official bodies .....	34
4.1. Introduction .....	34
4.2. Complaints lodged with PanSALB .....	34
4.2.1. For the period 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005 .....	34
4.3. Complaints lodged with other bodies .....	39
5. Language litigation .....	40
5.1. Introduction .....	40
5.2. Linguistic rights litigation .....	40
5.3. Importance of language in ensuring a fair trial .....	43
5.4. Language matters discussed in courts .....	44
6. An analysis of language activism as covered by the printed media .....	45
6.1. Introduction .....	45
6.2. Language activism and language rights activism .....	45
6.3. Coverage of language activism in the South African printed media .....	46
6.3.1. Incidents and events that prompted language activism .....	47
6.3.2. Role-players involved in language activism .....	53
6.3.3. Languages comprising the focus of language activism .....	53
6.4. Instruments of language activism .....	54
6.4.1. Research .....	54

6.4.2. Media coverage .....	54
6.4.3. Lobbying .....	54
6.4.4. Community mobilisation .....	55
6.4.5. Language rights complaints .....	58
6.4.6. Litigation .....	59
6.4.7. Violence .....	59
6.5. Conclusion .....	60
7. Language research .....	61
7.1. Introduction .....	61
7.2. Research reflected in the printed media .....	61
7.3. Publications .....	62
7.3.1. International publications .....	63
7.3.2. Publications in South Africa .....	66
7.4. Conclusion .....	68
8. Conclusions and recommendations .....	68
8.1. Conclusions .....	68
8.2. Recommendations .....	72
8.2.1. Media coverage of language issues .....	72
8.2.3. Language complaints lodged with official bodies .....	73
8.2.3. Language litigation .....	74
8.2.4. Language activism .....	74
8.2.5. Language research .....	74
9. Bibliography .....	75

## Acknowledgements

The first report on the South African Language Rights Monitor Project appeared in April 2003, covering the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002. The second report, covering the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003, was released in June 2005. The period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 was dealt with in the third report; and this latest report covers the period from 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) for providing the financial support needed to make this project possible. The authors also deeply appreciate the contribution of SA Media at the University of the Free State, and would like to extend a particular word of thanks to Ms H.P.M. Van den Berg and Ms H.J. Prinsloo, who supplied the media records.

Our sincere thanks are also due to Ms Nandi Venter and Ms Nadia Van Rensburg of the Unit for Language Management, who carried out the processing of the data.

The views expressed in this fourth report, and the conclusions reached, are those of the compilers, and therefore do not necessarily reflect the views of the Unit for Language Management, the University of the Free State or PanSALB.

LT du Plessis  
June 2007

## 1. Introduction

The South African Language Rights Monitor (SALRM) is an annual report on the language rights situation and language matters in general in South Africa, primarily as reflected in data obtained from the printed media (recorded in the SA Media database). The aim of the Monitor is to help to promote PanSALB's objective of making all language groups more aware of their language rights. It is envisaged that this heightened consciousness of various groups' language rights will help to cultivate a proactive language rights culture in South Africa. This, in turn, could contribute towards the transformation of our society, and serve as a deterrent to linguistic discrimination. Important outcomes hereof would include the further democratisation of our society, as well as an increased participation in public life.

SALRM 2005, the fourth annual report of its kind, aims to assist PanSALB to fulfil its mandate, which includes, *inter alia*, the development of South African languages, the promotion of multilingualism and the protection of language rights. The report provides an overview of the following language issues:

- i. Media coverage on language issues (in general)
- ii. Language rights complaints
- iii. Language activism
- iv. Language litigation
- v. Relevant research on language.

Since the eventual focus of the report is to reflect on language rights issues, conclusions and recommendations will be made in respect thereof.

## 2. Methodology

Data on the printed media were obtained from excerpts/cuttings provided by SA Media at the University of the Free State. SA Media provides access to the important mainstream newspapers, journals and magazines. During 2005, records were received from 27 different sources, 23 of which were English and 4 Afrikaans. These included the major newspapers such as *Rapport*, *Sunday Times*, the *Daily Sun*, the *Volksblad*, the *Pretoria News*, *The Herald*, the *Cape Argus*, the *Daily Dispatch*, the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, the *Burger*, the *Citizen*, *The Star*, the *Sowetan*, the *Sunday Independent*, the *City Press*, *Beeld*, the *Saturday Star*, the *Mail and Guardian*, the *Sunday Tribune*, the *Natal Witness*, the *Daily News*, the *Business*

*Day*, the *Independent on Saturday*, the *Cape Times*, the *Saturday Weekend Argus* and the *Weekend Post*. For every clipping, a unique reference number is supplied.

During the period under review, SA Media had no access to African-language newspapers, for example the Zulu newspapers published in KwaZulu-Natal (*Ilanga* and *Isoleswe*), or any other African-language newspapers.

The questionnaire that served as a data-collection tool during the pilot project had to be reworked. Not only was it too lengthy to be completed within a reasonable amount of time; difficulties were also experienced with regard to the use of the questionnaire by all project staff, as well as the conduction of statistical analyses. Moreover, it was now necessary to process information on a monthly basis. A more accessible database that could be easily manipulated by all project staff was required. After careful consideration, a decision was made to utilise Microsoft Access as an instrument to capture data and to build a database which would meet most of the needs of the extended project.

The information captured on the SALRM database concerning the excerpts/cuttings includes the SA Media source, as well as the date, topic number, reference number and ID number, as provided by SA Media. Furthermore, the source page, language of the record, type of record, author and title of the record, as well as a subtitle of the record, are captured. These particulars are followed by a brief description of the contents of the record; any relevant elaboration, where applicable; a general indication of the focus of the coverage; as well as a more specific description of the focus of the coverage. In addition, the primary and secondary languages concerned, as well as the role-players involved, are noted, together with any further language-related keywords. An MS Access form was designed to allow project staff to access the database in order to enter the relevant information electronically.

A completed form is displayed below:

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Access window with a form titled 'SALRB2007Feb'. The form is divided into several sections:

Questionnaire No	Source	Date	Topic No	Reference No	ID
1	Beeld	06-Feb-07	35	406	3E+08
Source Page	Language of record	Type of record			
2	Afrikaans	Report			
Author					
De Beer, Linda					
Title of record					
Duisende betoog teen nuwe Potch-naam					
Subtitle of record					
Brief description of details					
Report on protests by Sanco against the proposed name change and bad service delivery in Potchefstroom. Demonstration was preceded by ransacking and throwing of stones. A memorandum with the grievances was handed over to local government representative					
Elaboration					
Sanco also feels that until service delivery improves, the name change is a waste of money. In the demonstrations violence erupted and only a memorandum was handed in to the North West Local Government.					
Specific focus of coverage	More specifics on focus	Primary language concerned			
Name change	Place names				
Secondary language concerned	Other language(s) concerned	Roleplayers involved 1			
		South African National Civics Organisatio			
Roleplayers involved 2	Roleplayers involved 3	Roleplayers involved 4			
North West Local Government	Maphelle Maphelle (mayor)				
Roleplayers involved 5	Keyword 1	Keyword 2			
	Potchefstroom	Tlokwe			
Keyword 3	Keyword 4	Keyword 5			
Language activism	Violence	Demonstrations			

Record: 1 of 113

Project staff enter the bibliographic details of the record concerned in the language of the record; but the interpretative sections are completed in the language of the individual's choice. The database is checked on a monthly basis by the project manager, and alterations are made on the database if necessary. A list of queries regarding the data that have been collected is compiled on a monthly basis.

The general focus of coverage, together with the more specific focus, comprises an important basis for analysis. In order to analyse the contents of the media coverage, we make use of Kaplan and Baldauf's (2003) Framework for Language Planning Goals as a point of departure. Where necessary, certain adaptations are made to this framework. It is possible to distinguish five broad categories of coverage. Coverage focusing on language problems relates mainly to language status, language corpus, language acquisition and language prestige, and coverage focusing on language promotion is mostly concerned with language prestige. Coverage on language renovation (in relation to the language corpus) is treated as a separate category, since this type of coverage usually occurs in the form of a language column, as a special feature of the newspaper concerned. Similarly, coverage on name changes could also be categorised under language problems; but in view of the contentious nature of the debate on name changes in South

Africa, coverage on this issue is treated as a separate focus area. The last category of coverage is that of language research. A template was designed to serve as a guideline to project staff. The template covers the following aspects:

Focus of coverage	More specific focus	Notes
Language problems	Language spread Language rights Linguistic issues Language acquisition Language maintenance Language prestige	Related to language status Related to language corpus Related to language acquisition Related to language promotion
Language promotion	Language appeals Language awards & prizes Language materials & products Language organisations Language personalities Language festivals Language conferences Language awareness Language education	
Name changes	Place names Institutional names Personal names Business names	
Language renovation	Not at this stage	
Language research	Language use	

In addition, further guidelines have been provided to facilitate the process of excerpting the required information from the SA Media records. See the Afrikaans insert below:

### Formaat van opsomming by SALR databasis

Aspek van dekking	Toeligting
Aard	Begin met frases soos “Covers...”; “Report on...”; “Letter highlighting...”; “Response on...” ens. (
Essensie	Die absolute essensiële inligting wat gekommunikeer word. (Dikwels nie noodwendig taalverwant nie. Dikwels ook na aanleiding van iets/gebeurtenis ens.)
Taal	Hoe taal betrokke is. (Hierdie aspek is die kern waarin ons belangstel maar mag nie noodwendig die kern van die betrokke kommunikasie wees nie. Dui aan waarom taal by die betrokke kwessie betrek word. Wanneer rekord spesifiek oor taal handel, behandel hierdie gedeelte dit meer uitvoerig.)
Bykomend	Begin met frases soos “Mentions...”. (Gee kernagtig verdere relevante inligting. Kan verder uitgebrei word onder Elaboration). Belangrik om nie sinne te laat oorloop na Elaboration toe nie.

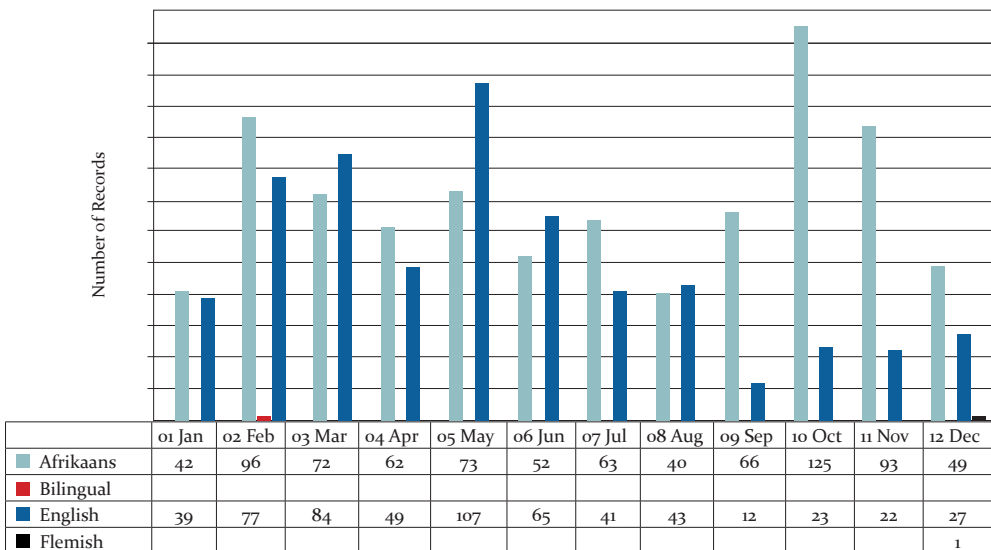
### 3. Media coverage on language issues during 2005

During 2005, a total of 1 424 language-related records were obtained from SA Media. Figure 1 provides an indication of the spread of records during the year, as well as the distribution between Afrikaans, English and other languages in terms of the number of records published in each. One bilingual record was published during February 2005, comprising a cartoon referring to language problems. The database also contains a Flemish record, in the form of a letter from the University of Ghent, published in December 2005.

#### 3.1. Language distribution of records

This section will focus on the language distribution of the 1 424 records in the SALRM database for 2005 (cf. Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Spread of records on language-related topics for 2005**



The language distribution of records during 2005 comprised 58.5% Afrikaans and 41.36% English records, with 1 Flemish record (0.07%) and 1 bilingual record (0.07%). Although this language division is not particularly sharp, it should be borne in mind that the database contains more English newspaper titles (23) than Afrikaans titles (4). The ratio of English to Afrikaans newspapers in the database is 5.75:1. Overall, relatively more Afrikaans records than English records were published during eight of the 12 months. The months of September, October and November, in particular, yielded a significantly higher number of Afrikaans

records than English records. This may be attributed to the issue relating to the medium of instruction in historically Afrikaans universities, with special reference to the University of Stellenbosch. During September 2005, the proposed changing of the name of Louis Trichardt received prominent attention, while the proposed changing of the name of Bloemfontein received coverage during November of that year. For September, the ratio of English records to Afrikaans records was 12:65; for October, 23:125; and for November, 22:93. The month of October 2005 stands out, with a total of 125 Afrikaans records, as against the 23 English records that were published during this month. This sharp contrast may be attributed to coverage in Afrikaans newspapers relating to the contentious issue of Afrikaans being replaced by English as the medium of instruction at historically Afrikaans universities, especially the University of Stellenbosch. However, it is notable that a relatively higher number of English records were produced during four months, namely March, May, June and August. English coverage during March focused on proposed changes to the names of Durban streets, as well as on the Pretoria name-change saga. During the month of May, coverage on the announcement that English would no longer comprise a compulsory subject in schools was prominent, while the Pretoria name issue again received a considerable amount of coverage. Important concerns that came to the fore during June 2005 included the issue of Afrikaans schools being forced to enrol English learners and provide education in English. The Laerskool Mikro featured in many of the records. Once again, the Pretoria name-change issue and the changing of Pietermaritzburg street names featured prominently in the media. Proposed changes to the names of Port Elizabeth and Louis Trichardt were prominent in August 2005. The sharpest contrast occurred during May 2005, when 107 English records were published, as against 73 Afrikaans records.

Coverage of language-related matters occurred throughout the year, at an average of 119 records per month. Above-average coverage occurred during February, March and May 2005, with 174 records, 156 records and 180 records respectively.

The high peak during the mentioned months resulted from the extensive coverage on the language problems experienced by certain Afrikaans schools, and particularly the Laerskool Mikro. The MEC for Education of the Western Cape had compelled this single-medium school to enrol English learners. Prominence was given to the issue of mother-tongue education, and also to the views held by the Premier, Ebrahim Rasool, in this regard.

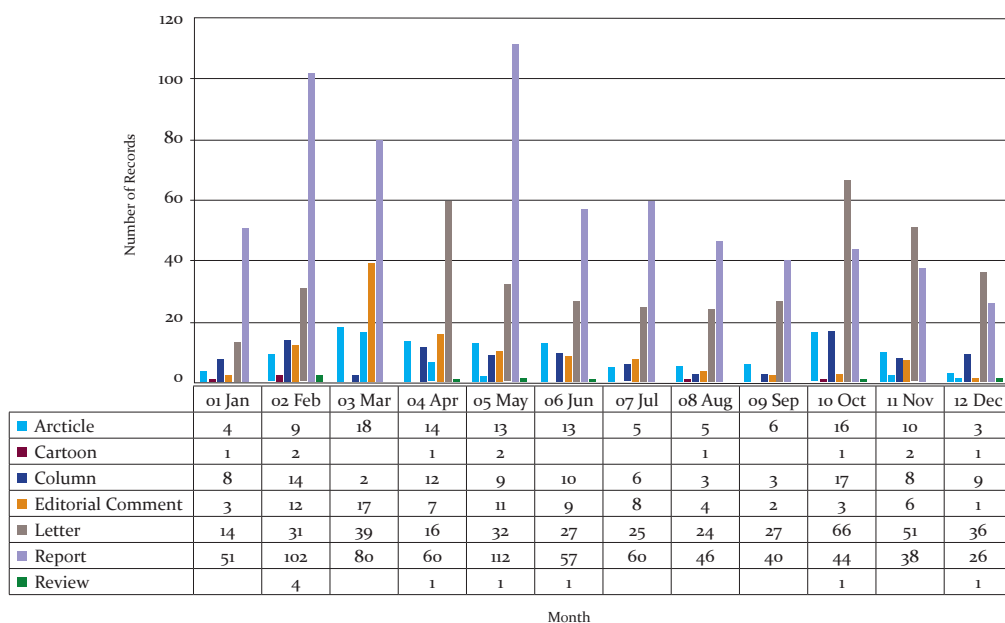
The proposed change of the name of Pretoria to Tshwane received extensive coverage during February, March and May 2005.

It is notable that the lowest level of coverage of language matters occurred during January (81 records), August (83 records), September (78 records) and December (77 records). Particularly during the latter two months, most of the records appeared in Afrikaans newspapers. During September and December, these records pertained mostly to the language-of-education issue at the University of Stellenbosch. Another matter that received coverage was the fact that Johann Rupert had withdrawn an advert that was to be published in a British magazine, because the magazine had described Afrikaans as the “ugliest language in the world”.

### 3.2 Types of records

This section comprises an analysis of the types of records in the database (cf. Figure 2).

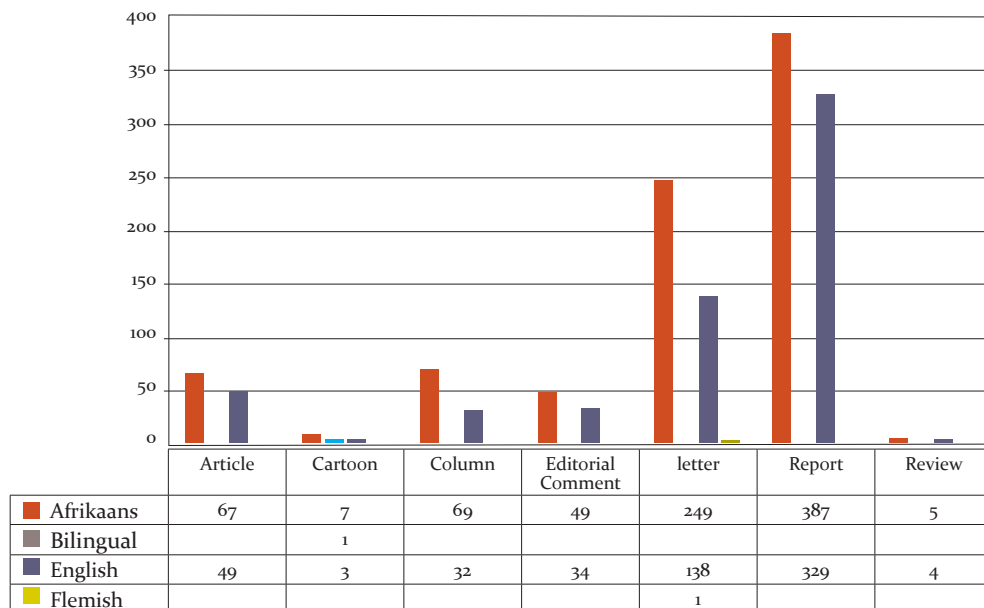
**Figure 2: Types of records on language-related topics for 2005**



Half of the records for 2005 (50.28%) were derived from newspaper reports and almost a third (27.25%), from letters to the editor. Furthermore, 8.15% of the records were comprised of articles, while 7.9% comprised columns and 5.83% comprised editorial comments. Some language-related cartoons (0.77%) and reviews (0.63%) were also published during the year. (Reviews, which tend to have a literary focus, usually comprise the bulk of printed media records; but only reviews that are directly relevant to language rights are taken into account for the purposes of the SALRM.)

Reports on language-related matters were published fairly consistently throughout 2005; but sharp peaks occurred during February (102 records) and May 2005 (112 records). A high incidence of reports covering language matters usually points towards an active interest in language matters on the part of newspapers. It is thus important to analyse the language spread in terms of the types of records (cf. Figure 2a).

**Figure 2a: Types of records on language-related topics per language of newspaper for 2005**



A slightly higher percentage of the *reports* on language-related matters (54%) appeared in the Afrikaans press, while 45.9% of these reports were published by the English press. There is a definite difference between the Afrikaans and English media in terms of the topics covered in reports. Of the 247 reports covering name changes, 158 (63.96%) appeared in the English press, as against the 89 (36.03%) that were published in the Afrikaans press. This tendency suggests a far greater interest in name changes among the readers of English newspapers. The reverse is true with regard to language problems in general. Of the 301 reports covering language problems, 194 (64.45%) were written in Afrikaans and 107 (35.54%) in English. As far as language promotion is concerned, 72 (54.96%) of the 131 reports were published in Afrikaans newspapers, as against the 59 English reports (45.03%) that covered this topic. Altogether, 8 (6.1%) reports covered language research. Of these, 5 (3.81%) were in Afrikaans and 3 (2.29%) were in English.

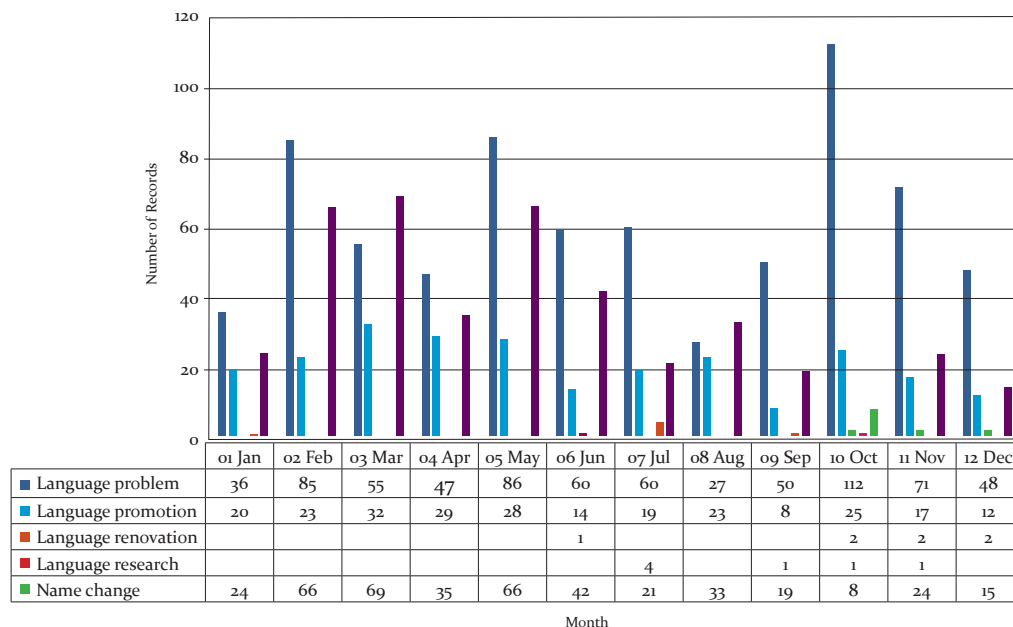
A total of 388 *letters* dealing with language-related matters were added to the SALRM database during 2005. One of these letters was published in Flemish in an Afrikaans newspaper. Afrikaans newspapers published a further 249 letters (64.17%), while 138 letters were published in the English press (35.56%). The majority of Afrikaans letters (203) and a large proportion of the English letters (71) referred to language problems. More English letters (54, as against the 27 Afrikaans letters) pertained to name changes. Only 1 English letter dealt with language-related research, while language promotion was discussed in 19 Afrikaans and 12 English letters.

Of the 101 language-related *columns*, 69 (38.31%) were published in Afrikaans, as against the 32 (31.68%) that appeared in the English press. Language problems were covered in 61 (60.39%) of the columns, i.e., 41 (67.21%) in the Afrikaans press and 20 (32.78%) in the English press. Only Afrikaans columns (7) dealt with language renovation. Name changes were covered in 11 columns – 2 (18.18%) in Afrikaans and 9 (81.81%) in English. Of these, 2 Afrikaans and 3 English columns refer to the proposed changing of the name of Pretoria to Tshwane. Only 1 Afrikaans column dealt with language research. A total of 21 columns dealing with language promotion were published. The majority of these appeared in Afrikaans newspapers (18 of the 21 columns).

During 2005, 116 language-related newspaper *articles* were published, 67 (57.75%) of which appeared in Afrikaans newspapers, as against the 49 (42.24%) that featured in English newspapers. Language problems were discussed in 50 of these articles, of which 28 (56%) were in Afrikaans and 22 (44%) in English. Language promotional aspects were covered in 38 articles, comprising 27 (71.05%) Afrikaans and 11 (28.94%) English articles. The contentious issue of name changes was covered in 26 articles, of which 16 (61.53%) were in English and 10 (38.46%) in Afrikaans. Again, the proposed changing of the name of Pretoria received the most attention (accounting for 12 articles). Only one research article concerning mother-tongue education was published (in an Afrikaans newspaper).

### 3.3 Categories of media coverage

As indicated in the Methodology section, the categories of media coverage in this report include language problems, name changes, language promotion, language renovation and language research. Each of these categories will be discussed in detail. To begin with, an overview of the spread of coverage in terms of these topics will be provided (cf. Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Spread of overall media coverage on language-related topics during 2005**

Matters pertaining to *language problems* in South Africa received prominent and consistent coverage during 2005, accounting for 737 (51.76%) of the records. The focus fell on language in education, with particular reference to the language used as the medium of instruction in Afrikaans schools and former Afrikaans universities, as well as language rights issues in general. Altogether, 259 of these records (35.14%) dealt with language rights issues.

Figure 3 indicates that records on language problems were spread evenly throughout the year, with an average of 61 records per month. A peak occurred during October 2005, when 112 of the 148 (75.6%) records published during that month dealt with language problems. The above-average coverage during this month may be attributed to the publicity surrounding the language struggle at Stellenbosch University. This struggle originated from a decision regarding dual-medium education, and from questions that had arisen regarding the position of Afrikaans in this higher education institution.

The issue of *name changes*, though related to language problems, is discussed separately. Name changes in South Africa came to the fore in 422 (29.63%) of the records published in 2005. Frequent coverage on name-changing occurred throughout the year. Sixty-nine records were published in March alone, while 66 were published respectively in February and in May 2005. The peaks during the

mentioned months can be ascribed to increased publicity regarding the proposed change of the name of Pretoria to Tshwane.

Two hundred and fifty records (17.56%) relating to language-promotional matters were received during 2005. These records focused on language personalities, language organisations, language conferences, language materials and products, language policy, language awards and prizes, language education and language festivals. Coverage of language-promotional issues was distributed evenly throughout the whole year. A slight peak occurred during March 2005, with 32 records published during that month. This may be attributed to coverage on plans by KwaZulu-Natal schools to offer Zulu as a school subject. Records relating to Afrikaans language festivals also contributed to the large number of records published during this month.

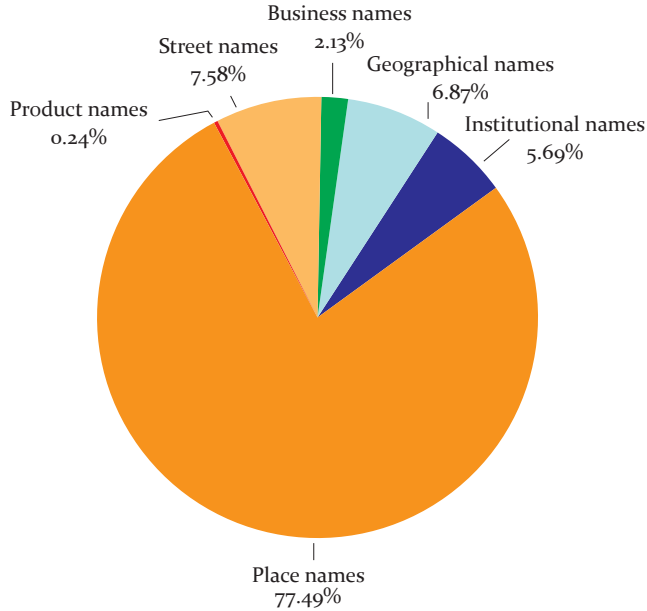
During 2005, language renovation received attention in 7 records. Coverage on this topic occurred sporadically throughout the year. Records were published during June, October, November and December.

**Language research** was discussed in 8 records (0.56%) in the printed media. Records on this topic were published during four of the 12 months, namely July, September, October and November 2005.

A detailed discussion of each of the above categories will now follow.

### **3.3.1. Focus on name changes**

As seen in Figure 4, a total of 422 records in the database for 2005 cover aspects related to *name changes* in South Africa.

**Figure 4: Types of name change coverage during 2005**

The majority of records concerning name changes (327, i.e. 77.49%) dealt specifically with changes to place names, while a further 32 (7.58%) dealt with the changing of street names. Twenty-nine (6.87%) of the records were concerned with geographical names. The changing of institutional names comprised the focus of 24 (5.69%) of the records. Changes to the names of businesses were covered in 9 (2.13%) of the records; while only 1 record dealt with the changing of a product name. This record referred to the magazine, *Wegbreek*, which was renamed *Weg*. This followed after court action had been taken against the publisher of *Wegbreek* by the publisher of *Getaway*, on the grounds that the Afrikaans title infringed on the English title's trademark (*Citizen*, 19/02/2005).

#### PLACE NAMES

The proposed change to the name of *Pretoria* received the greatest proportion of the coverage on name changes during 2005. Altogether, 179 records (54.74% of the total number of records on name changes) were published on this topic. The majority of these records appeared during the first half of the year, with 49 records published during May, 35 during March, 34 during February, 21 during June, 19 during April and 11 during January 2005. As from July 2005, however, the number of records published during any particular month regarding this topic amounted to a maximum of 3.

The Pretoria name-changing issue originated during November 2004, with the tabling of an alleged research report by Smangaliswo Mkhatswah, Mayor of the Tshwane Metro Council, regarding the proposed changing of the name of Pretoria. During January and February 2005, publicity focused on the unavailability of this research report. Media coverage suggested that the report in question was not discussed during the council meetings of the mentioned months (*Beeld*, 20, 21, 24, 28, 29/01/2005; 4, 10, 11, 24/02/2005; *Pretoria News*, 16, 24/02/2005; *Rapport*, 13/02/2005; *Business Day*, 04/02/2005). As a result of the withholding of the report, the FF+ conducted their own research on the name change, and subsequently submitted a report based on this research (*Beeld*, 24/02/2005). Their report was not accepted at the February council meeting (*Pretoria News*, 24/02/2005). During a special council meeting held on 7 March 2005, the ANC-led council resolved that the city of Pretoria would be renamed Tshwane, and that only the CBD would retain the name of Pretoria (*Citizen*, *Pretoria News*, *The Star* and *Beeld*, 7, 8/03/2005). The National Geographical Names Committee unanimously approved Tshwane as the new name for Pretoria. Their recommendation would be forwarded to Pallo Jordan for a final decision (*Pretoria News*, *Beeld*, *Business Day*, *The Star*, 27/05/2005; *Rapport*, 29/05/2005).

The proposed name change prompted different language activist initiatives, which will be discussed in detail in Section 4. These initiatives included petitions, mass marches, court action and complaints lodged with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

The renaming of **Louis Trichardt** as Makhado featured prominently in the printed media during August (8 records), September (10 records) and October 2005 (1 record), when a total of 19 records on this topic were published (comprising 5.81% of the total number of records on name changes). In this case, too, language activism was fairly prominent. The activist initiatives, which included litigation, are discussed in Section 4.

The proposed changing of the name of the **Johannesburg International Airport** received coverage in 13 records (3.98% of the total number of records on name changes), spread over four months, namely February (1 record), October (1 record), November (5 records) and December (6 records). On 2 February 2005, it was reported that the Mayor of the Ekurhuleni Municipality wished to resume the struggle to change the name of the Johannesburg International Airport to O.R. Tambo Airport (*Beeld*, 02/02/2005). During October and November 2005, it was reported that the Ekurhuleni Metro Council had passed a resolution for the renaming of the airport. This resolution was adopted by the Council, despite

strong opposition from the DA (*The Star*, 28/10/2005, 02/11/2005, 08/11/2005). It was pointed out that, if the proposed name change were to be accepted, this would be the second time that the airport had undergone a name change. The DA rejected the name change, drawing attention to the huge amounts of money involved, which could have been used to assist poor people (*Business Day*, 22/11/2005). One letter supporting the name change (*The Star*, 28/11/2005) and two letters opposing the name change were published (*The Star*, 02/11/2005, 07/12/2005) during 2005. An interesting argument against the name change was submitted by a postgraduate student in Traffic Engineering, who expressed the opinion that changing the name of the airport comprised a recipe for road disaster. He pointed out that the sudden introduction of unfamiliar destination names could cause confusion and disaster, as outdated maps would remain in circulation for years to come (*The Star*, 13/12/2005).

Altogether, 11 records (3.36% of the total records on name changes) were published on the proposed changing of the name of **Bloemfontein** to Thabure. It was reported that Thabure was the name of a Basotho chief's horse. "Thabure" was the first proposal for a new name that was submitted to the Geographical Names Committee (*Volksblad*, 08/11/2005; *The Star*, *Cape Times*, 09/11/2005). Two letters in favour of this proposed name change (*Volksblad*, 15/11/2005 and 06/12/2005), as well as two letters opposing the name change (*Volksblad*, 15/11/2005), were published. The *Volksblad* of 6/12/2005 contained a letter reporting that the Geographical Names Committee had been accused of not involving the community in its decisions. The FF+ organised a march in protest against the suggested name change.

Altogether, 8 records (comprising 2.45% of the total number of records on name changes) were published regarding the proposed changing of the name of **Port Elizabeth**. One record was published in January 2005, and 7 during August 2005. During January 2005, it was reported that the Eastern Cape Government would embark on the renaming process; but it was pointed out that it did not make sense to change the names of important centres such as Port Elizabeth (*The Herald (EP Herald)*, 13/01/2005). This view is contradicted in a report that was published on 12/08/2005. The latter report emphasised the likelihood that the name of Port Elizabeth would be changed to either eBhayi or Nelson Mandela City, since the Geographical Names Committee had listed it among a number of towns and cities with colonial names that needed to be reviewed (*Herald (EP Herald)*, 12/08/2005; *Weekend Post*, 13/08/2005). The community reacted to these reports by means of letters, expressing opinions both for and against the proposed name change. Two letters opposing the renaming of PE were published (*Herald (EP Herald)*,

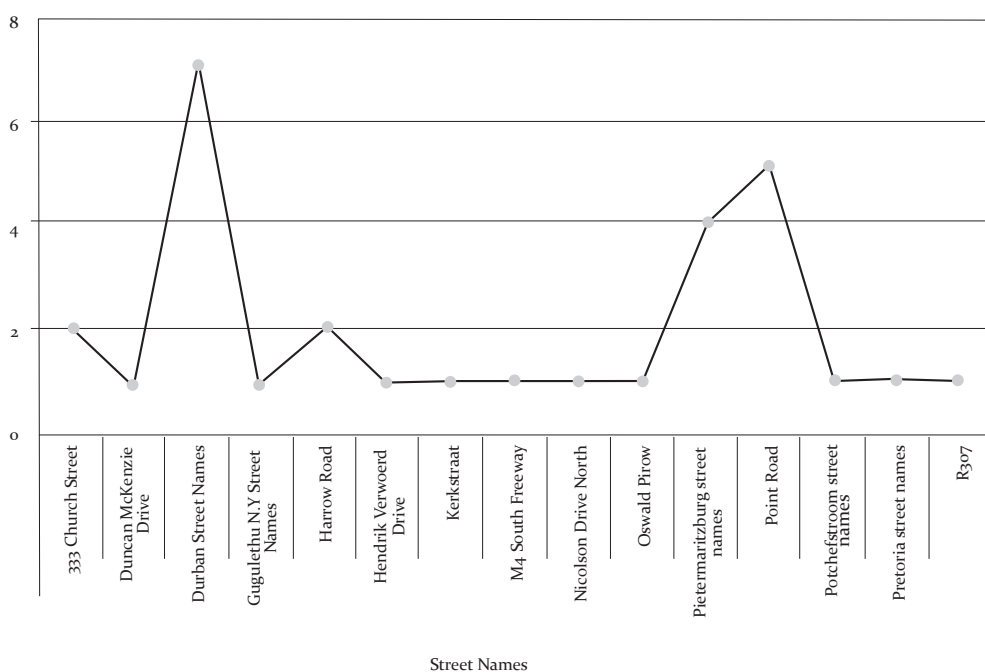
18/08/2005), as against three letters supporting the name change – comprising two in favour of Nelson Mandela City, and one in favour of eBhayi (*Herald (EP Herald)*, 12/08/2005, 18/08/2005).

During 2005, the Azanian Youth Organisation (Azayo) requested that **South Africa** should be renamed as Azania. Altogether, 8 records were published in this regard during the months of April (3 records), May (3 records), June (1 record) and July (1 record). Azayo motivated their proposal by arguing that South Africa is the only country in the world without an appropriate name, as the current name is only a geographical name (*The Star*, 12/04/2005). Opinions regarding the name change varied; but the most prevalent opinion was that it would be a waste of money to change South Africa's name (*Daily News*, 13/04/2005 and *The Star*, 5/07/2005). One letter relating to this matter was published in *The Star* (01/05/2005), one in the *Weekly Mail and Guardian* (26/05/2005), and one in the *Daily News* (17/06/2005). All of these letters supported the proposed changing of the country's name to Azania, and expressed the opinion that the country's name is crucial to nation-building.

## STREET NAMES

Altogether, 32 records pertaining to the changing of street names were published in 2005, during nine of the twelve months. The highest number of records (12) appeared during March 2005.

**Figure 5: Breakdown of records covering street name changing during 2005**



As can be seen in Figure 5, proposed changes to street names in general in Durban received the greatest amount of coverage (7 records) during 2005. The *Citizen* (09/03/2005) reported that the Durban Metro Council had approved the renaming of Durban streets after ANC icons. After widespread concern had been expressed, the city's executive committee backed down in respect of the renaming of nine major streets (*The Citizen*, 17/03/2005; *Daily News*, 18/03/2005). During May, it was reported that the process of street renaming would continue, and that the public would be involved in choosing new names. A task team was established to deal with this emotive issue (*Daily News*, 27/05/2005). The renaming of streets after Indian liberation movement activists was suggested by a former anti-apartheid activist during July 2005 (*Sunday Tribune*, 10/07/2005). During March 2005, the proposed renaming of Point Road in Durban received prominent attention. Five records on this issue were published during this month. It was proposed that Point Road should be renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Street (*Rapport*, *Sunday Tribune*, 13/03/2005; *Daily News*, 16/03/2005). Maha Sabha proposed that Grey Street, rather than Point Road, should be renamed after Mahatma Gandhi (*Daily News*, 17/03/2005).

During June, 4 records were published on proposed changes to Pietermaritzburg street names. On 1 and 2 June 2005, it was reported in the *Natal Witness* that Pietermaritzburg would proceed with its street renaming project. Pietermaritzburg was among the first municipalities to propose the renaming of streets. Twenty-one streets were targeted. Old and new street names would be seen together on the signs for six months, in order to help the residents and tourists to adjust to the transition (*Natal Witness*, 3/06/2005 and 30/06/2005).

The extensive coverage of name changes by the printed media that occurred during 2005 confirms the newsworthiness of this process. From the wide-ranging coverage on geographical name changes, it may be inferred that the process gained momentum during the year under review. The listing by the Geographical Names Committee of the names of a number of towns and cities that needed to be reviewed as a result of their colonial connotations (*Herald (EP Herald)*, 12/08/2005; *Weekend Post*, 13/08/2005) seems to have provided an important impetus in this regard. However, the extensive coverage also confirms the growing conflict relating to many aspects of the process – and not only among members of the Afrikaans community.

#### OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL NAME CHANGES

Twenty-nine (6.87%) records pertaining to the changing of other geographical names were published in the printed media during 2005. Nine of these records

comprise comments on name changes in general in South Africa. Four (4) records were published concerning name changes in Pietermaritzburg, including changes to the names of streets and buildings, such as the changing of the name of *Longmarket Street* to *Langalibalele Street*; *Berg Street* to *Hoosen Haffejee Street* (*Natal Witness*, 20/06/2005); and *Symonds Centre* to *Professor Nyembezi Centre* (*Natal Witness*, 24/06/2005, 30/06/2005 and 26/10/2005). Three (3) records were published on proposals to rename Bloemfontein, as well as rivers in the Free State. Proposals to rename Bloemfontein as Thabure were received (*Volksblad*, 09/11/2005 – 2 records; 24/11/2005)

#### INSTITUTIONAL NAMES

A total of 24 (5.68%) records pertaining to the changing of institutional names were published during 2005. Most of the records on this topic appeared during January and July 2005.

In this regard, 7 records were published in January 2005. The *Citizen* of 05/01/2005 reported that the name of the community radio station, “Radio Today”, had been changed to “1485 AM Gold”.

On 12/01/2005 and 13/01/2005, *The Herald* (*EP Herald*) reported that the Department of Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape had established a committee to facilitate the changing of names, especially offensive names. The changing of the names of some of the Eastern Cape’s leading schools, such as the *Kaffrarian Girls’ High School*, was mentioned. Letters on the same topic published in the same newspaper argued that the Government needed to consider issues that were more important than the changing of names (*The Herald*, 20/01/2005). Proposed changes to the names of some schools in the Limpopo province, which comprised part of the name-changing agenda of the Modimolle Municipality, also received publicity in two records (*Beeld*, 21/01/2005).

During July 2005, five (5) records concerning the changing of certain institutional names were published. The *Beeld* of 02/07/2005 reported that the Anglican Church of South Africa, called the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (CPSA), would discuss a possible name change during the forthcoming synod meeting. The *Natal Witness* and *Daily News* reported on 05/07/2005 that the name change had been approved, and that the church would henceforth be known as the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The Quadriplegic Association of the Eastern Cape officially changed its name to The Quadpara Association, in order to be in line with the national organisation (*The Herald*, 19/07/2005).

Another matter that received coverage was the changing of the name of the Nedbank group, who amalgamated with a number of unit trust companies after the takeover of BoE, which resulted in another name change. Nedcor Retail Investments was renamed as Nedgroup Investments (*The Citizen*, 25/07/2005).

#### BUSINESS NAMES

Nine (2.13%) records concerning changes to the names of businesses were published during the year 2005. Three records on this topic were published in February 2005 and 1 each during March, April, June, July and November. During a period of six months, coverage was also given to the changing of the name of *Ispa Iscor* (the former *Iscor/Yskor*) to *Mittal Steel South Africa* (*The Star*, 08/02/2005). In addition, it was reported that the computer service group, AST, had changed its name to *Gijima AST Group*, in order to reflect its empowerment status and the role that Gijima would play (*Business Day*, 21/02/2005). In the *Beeld* of 21/02/2005, it was reported that the name of the “Openbare Beleggingskommissie (OBK)” would be changed to “Openbare Beleggingskorporasie”, after the organisation had become an affiliate of the Government. Mercantile Lisbon’s name was changed to Mercantile Bank during March 2005, in accordance with the “new image” that the Bank had adopted in order to attract a wider market share (*Beeld* and *Business Day*, 01/03/2005). Coverage was also given to the changing of the name of the popular casino, *Caesar’s*, to *Emperor’s Palace* in April 2005, after the hotel, casino and convention resort had become 100% South African-owned (*Citizen*, 01/04/2005 and *Saturday Star*, 09/07/2005). It was also reported that the *Touch of Mandela Gallery* in Durban had changed its name to *Tribal Expressions*, after a court order had been issued to prevent art dealers from selling artwork of Nelson Mandela for Mr Ross Calder. The owner of the Gallery felt that it would be appropriate to change the name (*Beeld*, 01/06/2005). In the *Beeld* of 30/11/2005, it was reported that the “Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees” would henceforth be known as the “ABSA KKNK”, after the banking group had announced their new sponsorship for the next five years.

#### PRODUCT NAMES

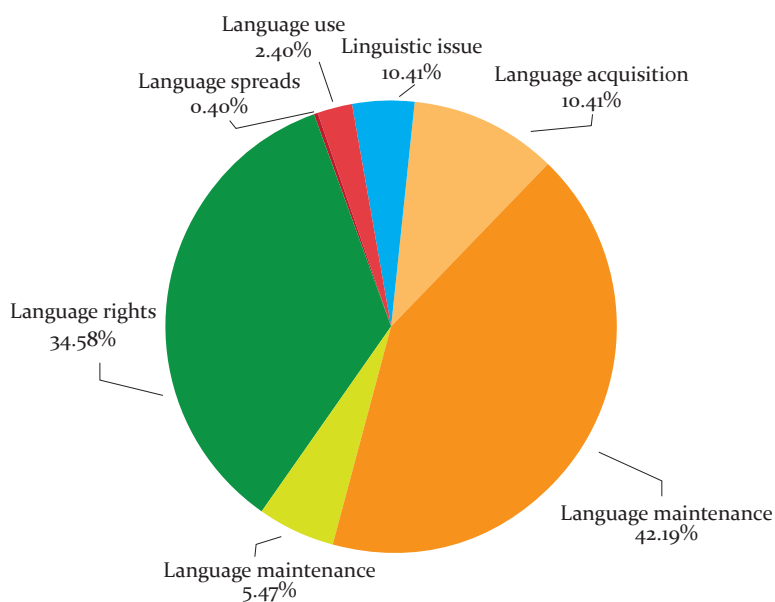
Only one record was published concerning the changing of a product name. It was reported on 19 February 2005 in the *Citizen* that the Afrikaans magazine,

*Wegbreek*, had changed its name to *Weg*. This followed a court action brought against the publisher of *Wegbreek* by Ramsay Son & Parker, publishers of *Getaway*, on the grounds that the Afrikaans title infringed on the English title's trademark. The Cape Supreme Court upheld Ramsay Son & Parker's complaint, and ruled that the publisher of *Wegbreek*, Media24, should no longer publish the magazine in its current guise, and that all material bearing the *Wegbreek* trademark should be destroyed.

### 3.3.2. Focus on language problems

As can be seen in Figure 6, a total of 749 records in the database for 2005 cover aspects related to *language problems* in South Africa. These records cover the following major issues: language rights, language use, language maintenance and general linguistic issues.

**Figure 6: Breakdown of coverage of language problems during 2005**

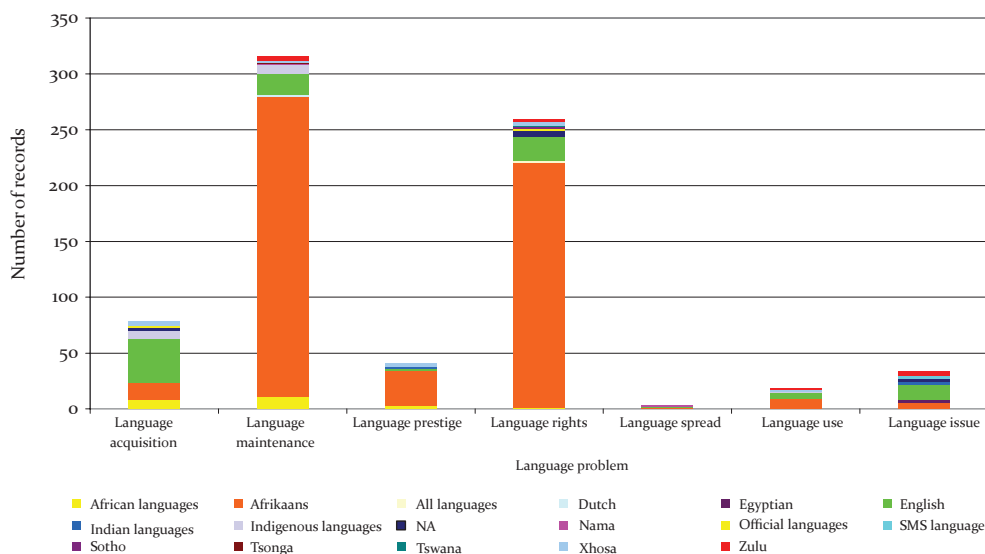


Language problems related to *language maintenance* received the greatest amount of media coverage during 2005, accounting for 316 (42.19%) of the above-mentioned records. In total, 259 (34.58%) of the 749 records covered problems related to *language rights*. Language problems pertaining to *language acquisition* were covered in 78 (10.41%) of the records, while 41 (5.47%) of the records concerning language problems dealt with *language prestige*. Altogether, 34 (4.54%) of the records dealing with language problems focused on

*linguistic issues*, while language problems pertaining to *language use* were covered in 18 (2.40%) of the records. Only 3 records dealt with language problems related to *language spread*.

Figure 6a displays the language breakdown in terms of the focus on language problems.

**Figure 6a: Coverage of language problems in relation to primary language concerns during 2005**



Most of the records covering language problems (73.56%) were concerned with Afrikaans. Language problems relating to English were covered in 13.89% of the records, while language problems relating to African languages were discussed in only 3.17% of the records. It should be borne in mind that only Afrikaans and English newspapers were used as sources for the records during the period under review. Language problems with regard to Xhosa and Zulu were discussed in 1.87% and 1.47% of the records respectively.

Each category will now be discussed separately.

#### LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the 316 records on language problems relating to language maintenance, were concerned with Afrikaans as a primary language. Nineteen records (6%) were concerned with English, 11 (3.48%) with African languages, 8

(2.5%) with the indigenous languages (with 4 pertaining to Zulu, 2 to Xhosa, and 1 each pertaining to Tsonga and Nama), whilst one record focused on Dutch.

Of the 269 records focusing on the maintenance of Afrikaans, 240 records (89.2%) were published in Afrikaans newspapers, while 29 (10.7%) appeared in English newspapers. Most of the records (127 – 47.2%) were letters, while 80 (29.7%) comprised reports, 29 (10.7%) comprised columns, 22 (8.1%) comprised articles, 9 (3.3%) consisted of editorial comments and 2 (0.74%) consisted of cartoons. The majority of records (149 – 55.39%) dealt with language in education, with specific reference to the maintenance of Afrikaans in education.

The position of Afrikaans as a language of education, both in schools and in tertiary education, was a predominant theme in newspaper coverage on language problems during 2005. In particular, the maintenance of Afrikaans as a scientific language in South Africa, both in schools and in universities, was highlighted (*Burger*, 09/02/2005).

Coverage regarding the maintenance of Afrikaans was partly prompted by a ministerial committee report on the development of indigenous languages as languages of instruction. Apparently Afrikaans as an indigenous language was ignored. The SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns responded by asserting that Afrikaans is as indigenous as any of the other languages, and that it should therefore be proposed as one of the languages of instruction (*Burger*, 12/04/2005; *Beeld*, 13/04/2005). The FF+ reported (*Business Day*, 27/07/2005; *Beeld*, 28/07/2005) that the number of Afrikaans-medium schools had shrunk from 1 500 to 300 in recent years. It was also mentioned that two of the five predominantly Afrikaans universities had become predominantly English-medium. The Afrikaanse Kultuur Vereniging also pleaded for the maintenance of Afrikaans at Universities (*Rapport*, 11/09/2005; *Beeld*, 25/09/2005).

Language activist initiatives also received a fair amount of coverage in this regard, particularly in respect of the language issue at university level. The language policy of the University of Stellenbosch received a considerable amount of attention in the media during 2005. Chris Brink, Rector of the University of Stellenbosch, said that language conflict was threatening to break out on campuses, and that a safe environment needed be created for mother-tongue maintenance (*Rapport*, 31/07/2005). He was accused of putting Afrikaans at risk, owing to the bilingual classes that were being offered as an option (the so-called “T-option”) in some of the departments of the US (*Burger*, 22/09/2005, 28/09/2005; *Rapport*, 25/09/2005, 28/09/2005). This led to language activist initiatives, which will be discussed in point 6.

Another interesting development in terms of language activism was the protest against Afrikaans at tertiary level. During February 2005, students at various universities protested against the use of Afrikaans. The concerned institutions included the University of Johannesburg, the Technikon Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria and the Tshwane University of Technology (*Beeld*, 22/02/2005; *Rapport*, 27/02/2005).

The coverage accorded to language problems relating to language maintenance during 2005 confirms the central role of the education domain in language policy implementation in South Africa. This domain is regarded by some as an important domain of language maintenance, whilst others regard it as a domain in which past language practices need to be challenged. Language in education thus remains a highly contested issue in this country. This is confirmed by the many instances of language activism discussed above.

#### LANGUAGE RIGHTS

Not only are language rights complaints lodged with PanSALB, but such complaints also feature in the printed media. Coverage on these complaints is usually related to the publicity that attends language rights incidents. Such an incident may eventually give rise to the lodging of a language rights complaint with an appropriate authority that is mandated to deal with such matters.

During 2005, 259 records on language rights incidents were published. The majority of these records (184 – 71%) were published in Afrikaans newspapers. One record, a cartoon, was bilingual; and 74 records (28.5%) on this topic were published in English newspapers. Except for December, during which only 3 records were published, the coverage was spread relatively evenly throughout the year, with peaks in February, March, May, June and July 2005.

The majority of records on language rights incidents refer to Afrikaans as the affected language (84.94%), while 8.49% of the records refer to English as the affected language. Only a small percentage of the records referred to African languages as affected languages, with 3 records referring to Xhosa (1.16%), 2 records each to Zulu and Sotho (0.77%), and 1 record (0.39%) to Tswana.

Records pertaining to language rights issues dealt mostly with the language situation in schools and higher education institutions. In fact, 50.9% of the records dealt with *language rights in education*, referring mostly to the Laerskool Mikro debacle; while 16.21% of the records pertained to *language rights in higher*

**education**, with specific reference to universities and colleges and the right to receive instruction in Afrikaans.

The relevant coverage indicates that the Northern Cape Education Department continued with its plans to transform five schools in Kuruman, and one in Jan Kempdorp, from Afrikaans single-medium schools to (Afrikaans/English) dual-medium schools. Three of these schools indicated that they would fight this decision in the High Court, namely Kalahari High, the Hoër Landbouskool and the Seodin Primary School (*Volksblad*, 15/01/2005, 19/01/2005, 07/05/2005 and 12/05/2005; *Beeld*, 05/05/2005 and 11/05/2005; *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 10/05/2005, 11/05/2005). A detailed discussion in this regard is provided in Section 4 of this report.

The Laerskool Mikro debacle received prominent attention in the media during 2005. The school was forced to accommodate English-speaking learners, despite the fact that it was an Afrikaans-medium school. This led to a series of language activist initiatives, which will be discussed in detail in Section 4 of the report.

A further school battle that elicited publicity involved the Hoërskool Pretoria Noord, The Pretoria High Court appointed an advocate as curator, to represent the interests of English-speaking pupils at the Pretoria North High School. The school was involved in a legal battle with the education authorities, and had launched an application to force the authorities to provide, and pay the salaries of, additional teachers for English-medium classes, after the announcement that all additional posts would be scrapped (*The Citizen* and *Beeld*, 22/06/2005).

Concern regarding the use of English as the medium of instruction at the University of the Free State was also expressed in the printed media. Isolated publicity was accorded to the MA degree in History, which was only presented in English (*Volksblad*, 03/03/2005 and 12/03/2005). It was also reported in the *Volksblad* (12/03/2005) that many lecturers were duplicating their classes, in Afrikaans and English.

Complaints against the University of Pretoria, which were lodged with PanSALB, received publicity in the media. These complaints followed after allegations were made to the effect that Afrikaans classes for third- and fourth-year students in the Department of Engineering had been discontinued. According to the head of the department, this was not true. Some modules were available in both Afrikaans and English (*Beeld*, 11/04/2005). Once again, language activist initiatives were launched, including a protest march against the abolishing of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction.

Language rights issues at the University of Stellenbosch were also covered. It was proposed by the Language Committee of that University that the US should revise its language policy, in order to accommodate multilingualism. The Faculty of Humanities decided to continue with the application of dual-medium education in the respective departments of the Faculty. The SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns expressed their deep concern regarding the right to mother-tongue education – which, they stressed, is a right of all people (*Rapport*, 25/09/2005; *Burger*, 26/09/2005, 27/09/2005, 28/09/2005, 30/09/2005, 13/10/2005, 01/11/2005).

A decision to use English as a medium of instruction at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College, which is attended mainly by Afrikaans-speaking students, also prompted coverage. Afrikaans parents and students strongly objected to this measure (*Volksblad*, 26/07/2005; *Beeld*, 28/07/2005 and 29/07/2005; *Citizen*, 29/07/2005). However, the Premier of North West, Edna Molewa, announced that Afrikaans would be maintained as one of the languages of instruction at the College (*Beeld*, 29/07/2005).

The language policy in the judicial system also featured in the media during 2005. It was stressed at the beginning of the year that English seemed to have become the language of record in court, notwithstanding the client's constitutional right to use the language of his/her choice in a court case (*Beeld*, 10/01/2005). Judge Hlope indicated that it was very difficult for black judges to prepare a verdict, since the majority of documents were in Afrikaans (*Rapport*, 10/04/2005). It was reported that the use of English in statements also seemed to have an influence on the outcome of court cases, as can be seen in the following examples: A witness in Phalaborwa indicated that he had signed two statements which were written in English, without his being able to read the statements himself. He gave his statement in Shangaan, but it was written down in English (*Beeld*, 26/01/2005). The DA urged all members of the public to give statements in the language of their choice, in view of their constitutional right to do so (*Burger*, 17/06/2005). Judge Hlope agreed that the dominance of Afrikaans and English in courts was a matter of great concern. This followed after the hearing of a case in Xhosa. A problem had been experienced when the defence lawyer indicated that he was not able to speak Xhosa. Language thus played a direct role in respect of the accused person's right to a fair trial. He could not consult with his lawyer, owing to the fact that no interpreter was available (*Cape Argus*, 18/03/2005).

A ruling by the SAPS in the Western Cape, to the effect that only English should be used in all forms of written and electronic communication, and that charges would be brought against persons guilty of non-compliance, received publicity

(*Burger*, 21/02/2005 and 04/06/2005; *Cape Argus* and *Burger*, 24/05/2005; *Cape Times*, 25/02/2005). The reason given for this decision pertained to the lack of a comprehensive national language policy to serve as a guideline for the SAPS (*Burger*, 26/02/2005).

Coverage was also given to a complaint lodged with PanSALB against the Gauteng Department of Social Development, on the grounds that the Department disregarded Afrikaans. PanSALB's findings, in terms of which the Department was instructed to revise its policy before the end of September 2005 in order to avoid legal action, were mentioned. PanSALB rejected the Department's interim policy, on the grounds that it did not comply with the Board's requirements (*Beeld*, 14/07/2005).

The coverage given to language rights incidents, as well as to the general dissatisfaction regarding the protection of language rights, confirms the important role played by the printed media as a public discussion forum. A particularly interesting aspect that came to the fore during 2005 was the coverage accorded to language rights complaints lodged with PanSALB. The lodging of such complaints, albeit not necessarily always positive, can help to promote the image of the Board as the so-called "language watchdog". In particular, the coverage of the Board's attempted intervention in Kuruman afforded good publicity. Furthermore, the coverage of language rights gave prominence to the issue of language rights in education (both in terms of linguistic human rights and language rights), as well as that of language rights in the judicial sector.

#### LANGUAGE PRESTIGE

Altogether, 41 records covered language problems pertaining to language prestige. Once again, Afrikaans as a primary language was the focus of the majority of records (31 – 75.6%). Three (7.3%) records dealt with African languages in general, 3 (7.3%) dealt with Xhosa, 2 (4.8%) with English and 2 (4.8%) with indigenous languages.

The language prestige issue that received the most media attention in 2005 pertained to Johann Rupert's decision to withdraw millions of rands' worth of advertisements from a British magazine. This step was taken because the magazine had described Afrikaans as the "ugliest language in the world". Mr Rupert received a great deal of support from the public in respect of his decision (*Rapport*, 04/12/2005; *Beeld*, 05/18/2005, 06/12/2005, 07/12/2005, 08/12/2005; *Burger*, 08/12/2005, 06/12/2005, 13/12/2005; *Volksblad*, 09/12/2005; *Pretoria News*, 10/12/2005; *Cape Argus*, 13/12/2005; *Saturday Star*, 10/12/2005; *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 09/12/2005).

Only one of the persons who responded, namely Mr Reinhardt Buys, did not support Mr Rupert's action (*Rapport*, 11/12/2005).

Language visibility also enjoyed coverage, but in a negative way. It was reported in the *Saturday Weekend Argus* of 12 March 2005, as well as in *The Star* (29/08/2005), that the Xhosa wording on the official signs in the Western Cape was misleading and annoying. This was attributed to "bad" translations, which seemed to have been carried out by untrained translators. The *Saturday Star* of 26 March 2005 described the signs as "meaningless" and "offensive".

In both instances, the importance of a language's public "image" comes to the fore.

#### LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

A total of 78 records published in 2005 dealt with language problems pertaining to language acquisition. English was the primary language mentioned in most of these records (40 – 51.2%), while 15 records (19.2%) referred to Afrikaans, 8 (10.2%) to African languages, 7 (8.9%) to indigenous languages and 3 (3.8%) to Nama. The remaining 5 records did not refer to any specific language.

A report in the *Sunday Times* of 09/01/2005 focused on the bad matric results. It was alleged that poor language usage comprised a reason for this. In the Eastern Cape, many learners are instructed in Xhosa, while the exams are conducted in English. The National Department of Education revealed that not a single student countrywide had elected to write his or her matric exams in a language other than English or Afrikaans, despite the fact that the policy stated that children were entitled to choose the language in which they would like to study and write their exams. *The Star* (17/01/2005; 21/01/2005) and *The Herald* (18/01/2005) pointed out that white pupils enjoyed the luxury of being taught in their mother tongue, while black pupils first had to grapple with language issues before dealing with content. The *Volksblad* (25/01/2005) highlighted the poor language skills of first-year students of the University of the Free State. Since 2005, language proficiency tests have been compulsory at this University. Concerns about the language skills of students were raised during a symposium on mother-tongue education held at the UFS (*Volksblad*, 13/08/2005). It was attested that bad language skills have a negative influence on learners' academic achievements.

On 15 May 2005, the *Sunday Times* reported that there was no doubt that the Ministry of Education was planning to introduce a policy that could result in English no longer being a compulsory subject in schools. Pupils would be able to choose any two official languages, owing to the fact that South Africa's 11 official

languages are guaranteed equal status. It was pointed out that the education system needed to confirm this equal status (*Sunday Times*, 15/05/2005, 22/05/2005; *Daily News*, 17/05/2005; *The Citizen*, 17/05/2005; *Pretoria News*, 17/05/2005; *The Star*, 20/05/2005). The DA expressed their concerns in this regard (*The Star*, 16/05/2005).

Again, language in education comprised a central theme in the coverage of language problems in the printed media. Particular attention was accorded to problems relating to language acquisition in education. The alleged link between the mastering of the language of tuition, and the ability to perform effectively in the classroom, is a crucial issue that features prominently in the relevant coverage. Another problem relates to the inequalities in the South African educational system, which can be attributed to unequal language-in-education systems.

#### LANGUAGE USE

Of the 18 records focusing on language use, 9 (50%) pertained to Afrikaans, 6 (33%) to English, 1 (5%) to indigenous languages, 1 to Xhosa (5%) and 1 (5%) to Zulu. Eleven (61%) of the records were published in Afrikaans newspapers, as against the 7 (38.8%) that appeared in English newspapers.

The issue of language variation came to the fore during 2005. Eben Jansen, an Afrikaans newsreader, was criticised for his use of Afrikaans. Apparently, his emphasis often occurred at the wrong place in a sentence; and he was said to pronounce certain words with an English accent. In answer to this, he pointed out that Afrikaans has different dialects (*Rapport*, 17/04/2005). It was reported in *Beeld* (01/12/2005) that a distinction can be made between “Kaapse” Afrikaans and “wit” Afrikaans. Other varieties of Afrikaans were also mentioned in the report.

Altogether, 34 records on linguistic issues were published. Of these records, 14 (41.1%) pertained to English, 6 (17.6%) to Afrikaans, 4 (11.7%) to Zulu, 1 (2.9%) to Xhosa, 2 (5.8%) to “SMS language”, 2 (5.8%) to Egyptian, and 2 (5.8%) to Indian languages. In 3 (8.8%) records, reference was made to language in general. The majority of records (26 – 76.4%) were published in English newspapers.

Language purism issues also came to the fore. Reference was made to the incorrect use of Zulu words by SABC newsreaders. It was alleged that words that were not actually Zulu words were being used in broadcasts. Apparently, a considerable number of mistakes were being made in the translation of English words into Zulu by SABC1 (*Natal Witness*, 27/01/2005). King Goodwill Zwelithini complained about the improper use of Zulu in a catchphrase of SABC1, namely “Ya Mampela”

(*Sunday Times*, 06/02/2005). The question was also asked as to why “Zulu” was used, instead of “isiZulu”, since the latter is allegedly the “correct” name for the language (*Sunday Tribune*, 01/05/2005).

Publicity was given to the use of “SMS jargon” instead of conventional English/Afrikaans. It was pointed out that this situation was becoming a nightmare in South African schools. An increasing number of pupils are using this “modern and quick” writing style instead of correct English/Afrikaans (*The Citizen*, 26/02/2005; *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 18/05/2005 and 30/05/2005; *Volksblad*, 16/04/2005). It was also reported that the spelling abilities of learners were not very good, owing to decreased exposure to Afrikaans teaching in general; the use of SMS and email language; as well as the fact that children do not read much nowadays (*Beeld*, 10/06/2005).

Tom Parks of the English Academy of Southern Africa pointed out some glaring errors that had occurred in advertisements produced for government departments. He referred to spelling errors in a tabloid-sized advertisement issued by the Department of Labour (*Saturday Star*, 04/06/2005).

The quality of standardised tests set by provincial education officials was subjected to severe criticism, after certain severely flawed English Additional Language tests were scrutinised. It was noticed by a language expert that there were at least 120 language errors in the paper, including grammatical errors, incorrect usage of tenses, as well as incorrect punctuation, vocabulary, use of idioms and expressions (*Natal Witness*, 11/10/2005, 15/10/2005; *Sunday Tribune*, 23/10/2005). The Daily News pointed out, on 13 October 2005, that schools should ignore the marks that learners had obtained for this test. It was reported that the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education was conducting an investigation in order to determine how this test had come to be presented to thousands of Grade 11 learners (*Sunday Times*, 16/10/2005). Meanwhile, the “Nasionale Taalliggaam vir Afrikaans” (NTLA) complained about the quality of the Afrikaans examination paper in the North West province, Gauteng and the Western Cape. They asked the Minister of Education to prevent any negative consequences for candidates who had taken the examination. The papers contained spelling and grammatical errors, as well as inappropriate idioms and register (*Beeld*, 28/11/2005).

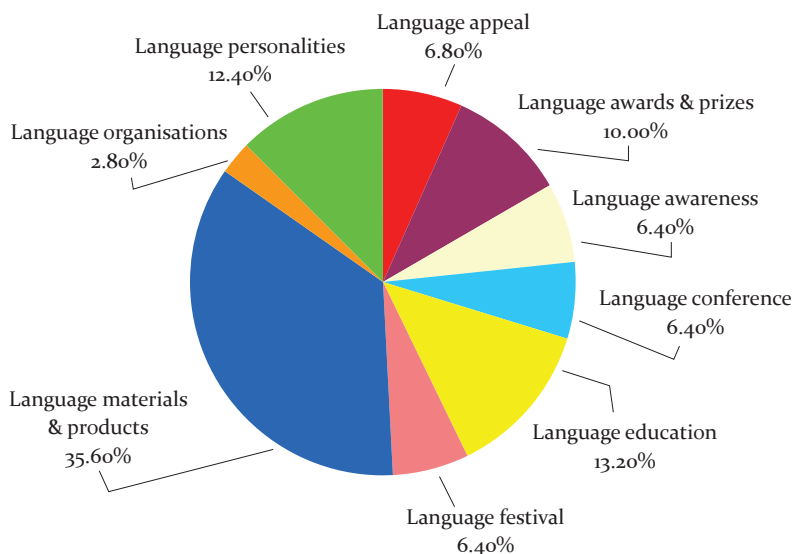
It is interesting to note that problems related to language use were accorded less prominence in the media during the year under review. People seemed to be more concerned with the status of languages and their prestige than with language use *per se*. Nevertheless, concerns about language standards were raised. The modern-day challenges relating to language use are highlighted in the records discussed

above. Of particular concern are the problems relating to language tests, since these problems could have a severe negative impact on the future of learners.

### 3.3.3. Focus on language promotion

During 2005, a total of 250 records focusing on language promotional matters were received. These are discussed below.

**Figure 7: Breakdown of records covering language promotion during 2005**



Of the records dealing with language promotion, 35.6% pertained to language materials and products, 13.2% to language education, 12.4% to language personalities, and 10% to language awards and prizes. Only a few records dealing with language appeal (6.8%), language awareness (6.4%), language festivals (6.4%) and language organisations (2.8%) were received. Most of these records (156 of the 250) were published in Afrikaans newspapers, as against the 94 that appeared in English newspapers.

Records were published throughout the year; and 25 or more records were published during October (25), May (28), April (29) and March (32). The majority of records (60.8%) referred to the promotion of Afrikaans, while 9.2% referred to the promotion of Zulu, 8.4% to the promotion of English and 6.8% to the promotion of Xhosa. The 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Afrikaans as an official language was celebrated. It was said that the future of the language looked brighter than had been the case ten years previously (*Pretoria News*, 05/05/2005).

Records regarding the promotion of *Afrikaans* referred to the explosion of *Afrikaans music*, as well as the great successes attending various art festivals. Mention was made of the annual GMT *Afrikaans* music awards. The relevant records point to the strong position of *Afrikaans* (*Rapport*, 02/01/2005; *The Herald*, 28/02/2005; *Beeld*, 08/03/2005; *The Star*, 09/03/2005). A report in *Beeld* (10/06/2005) reveals that *Afrikaans* music can even be heard in London, on Resonance 104.4 FM – a British radio station that presents a unique music programme, during which *Afrikaans* music is played. A new *Afrikaans* music channel, MK89, was established, with Liesl Marx as manager (*Burger*, 07/07/2005 and 08/07/2005). The Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (*Burger*, 01/04/2005, 01/06/2005) and the InniBos Art festival (*Beeld*, 05/07/2005) were mentioned as festivals that were making a contribution to the maintenance of *Afrikaans*. The ATKV conducted an “Afrikiti” multimedia music tour in South Africa, in celebration of the ATKV’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday (*Rapport*, 05/06/2005). They also honoured well-known people who had contributed towards the enrichment of *Afrikaans*, including Patrick Mynhard, Riaan Cruywagen, Janita Claassen (*Rapport*, 20/11/2005), Eugene Marais (*Burger*, 02/04/2005), David Kramer (*Rapport*, 03/04/2005; *Burger*, 09/12/2005), Ingrid Jonker (*Cape Times*, 22/07/2005), Prof. Johannes du Plessis (*Burger*, 29/10/2005) and Tryna Du Toit (*Burger*, 31/10/2005).

Attention was also accorded to *Afrikaans as a subject* in schools and other institutions in foreign countries. *Afrikaans* is taught as a second language in a school close to Perth, Australia (*Beeld*, 14/01/2005). *Afrikaans* literature is also presented as a subject at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands (*Burger*, 17/11/2005; *Beeld*, 21/11/2005).

*Afrikaans literature* received prominent coverage. Human & Rossouw republished well-known *Afrikaans* literary works by Etienne le Roux, Karel Schoeman, Jan Rabie, J van Melle, etc. (*Volksblad*, 31/01/2005). Rachele Greeff received the first prize for her *Afrikaans* short story at the annual Word festival, presented by Protea Boekhuis and LitNet (*Burger*, 10/02/2005). One record focuses on a booklet which contains *Afrikaans* poetry, translated into Italian by Giacomo Prampolini (*Volksblad*, 04/04/2005). The third deliberation for black *Afrikaans* writers that took place in October 2005 also received coverage. It was presented by the *Afrikaans* Department of the University of the Western Cape (*Burger*, 10/10/2005, 19/10/2005, 25/10/2005, 28/10/2005; *Rapport*, 16/10/2005; *Beeld*, 31/10/2005).

The annual *Pendoring* awards received media attention. It was announced that *Afrikaans* websites could also take part in this competition (*The Citizen*, 19/02/2005).

Pendoring was also invited to exhibit in Amsterdam, as Afrikaans advertisements had evoked the admiration of the Dutch (*Saturday Star*, 19/03/2005).

Coverage was also given to the annual PanSALB awards. The FF+ received an award from PanSALB for the promotion of multilingualism. On this occasion, it was pointed out that it would be a welcome development if people were to use their mother tongue when conversing in parliament (*Beeld*, 04/02/2005).

During May 2005, it was reported that **English** might soon be made an optional subject for senior pupils. Learners would be able to choose any two of the official languages, in terms of the Further Education and Training system for grades 10 to 12 (*The Star*, 16/05/2005; *The Citizen*, 17/05/2005; *Cape Argus*, 09/05/2007).

A huge promotion for **Zulu**, on an international level, was afforded by the South African film, *Yesterday*, which was nominated for an Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film. *Yesterday* was the first commercial feature film to be made in Zulu (*Cape Times*, 26/01/2005; *Sunday Times*, 30/01/2005; *Weekend Post*, 19/02/2005; *The Herald*, 21/02/2005). Unfortunately, *Yesterday* did not receive the award (*Pretoria News*, *Citizen*, 01/03/2005). According to letters published in the *Daily News* (01/02/2005) and *The Star* (02/02/2005), *Yesterday* is not the first Zulu film ever made. This honour belongs to the silent film, *Siliva the Zulu*, which was produced in 1927.

In further coverage relating to the promotion of Zulu, it was reported that, as from 2006, Zulu would be a compulsory subject in all KZN government schools. This comprised part of an initiative to promote indigenous languages (*Beeld*, 01/03/2005; *Natal Witness*, 01/03/2005, 03/03/2005 and 10/03/2005; *Sunday Tribune*, 06/03/2005). Although this development held great promotional value for Zulu, mixed responses were received from schools in KwaZulu Natal (*Natal Witness*, 02/03/2005).

Another development relating to the promotion of Zulu, was the revelation that Zulu-speaking audiences in KZN would henceforth be able to enjoy Bollywood movies in Zulu, as Indian films were to be dubbed into Zulu (*Sunday Tribune*, 05/06/2005; *Daily News*, 23/11/2005).

The promotion of **Xhosa** was covered in some records. A film that had been created to raise awareness of HIV/Aids and domestic violence, entitled *Tshintsha*, was produced in Xhosa. This film was to be screened in town halls and schools throughout the province (*Daily Dispatch*, 02/02/2005). Another South African Xhosa film, *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*, won a Golden Bear award for "best film"

at the Berlin International Film Festival (*Sunday Times*, 20/02/2005; *Sowetan*, 21/02/2005). A Xhosa Olympiad, organised by PanSALB, contributed to the promotion of Xhosa in the Western Cape (*Cape Argus*, 25/02/2005).

It was also announced that a comprehensive Xhosa dictionary would be published, containing approximately 32 000 Xhosa words. This dictionary indicates all the meanings of words, the idiomatic expressions, “hlonipha” words and cultural aspects (*Daily Dispatch*, 04/06/2005).

Promotional coverage was also given to the late Xhosa praise poet, David Yali-Manisi, who was honoured in an in-depth article in the *Natal Witness* (28/06/2005).

A workshop for aspiring Xhosa playwrights was also covered. The workshop included courses in creative writing, cultural and political studies, marketing and publishing, production and directing. It was presented by Itumeleng Wa-Lehulere, director of the Ikhwezi Community theatre project (*Saturday Weekend Argus*, 22/10/2005). Also mentioned was the first Xhosa drama that was presented at the Suidoosterfees in the Western Cape. The drama, entitled *Khanya Khayelitsha!*, was written and directed by Madoda Gcwadi (*Burger*, 01/11/2005).

**Technology** also prompted coverage on language-promotional aspects. The search engine, Google, enables one to search South African websites, using English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, isiZulu or Xhosa. Google was the first search engine to include SA languages (*The Star*, 19/01/2005; *Business Day*, 20/01/2005; *City Press*, 23/01/2005). It was also reported that Microsoft would be releasing a Zulu version of its Windows operating system and office suite (*Daily News*, 10/06/2005).

The coverage accorded to language-promotional issues is significant. It suggests that newspapers are not only interested in language problems and other negative aspects relating to language. It also underscores the important role that newspapers can play in language promotion. Especially interesting is the fair amount of coverage given to language-promotional matters pertaining to the other nine official languages (besides English and Afrikaans). Although the greatest proportion of coverage was devoted to Afrikaans during the year under review, many interesting promotional aspects pertaining to the other languages were covered. Many of the cases covered represent important language development initiatives.

#### **3.3.4. Focus on language research**

Only 8 records pertaining to language research were published. Of these, 5 (62.5%) were published in Afrikaans newspapers and 3 (37.5%) in English newspapers. Four

of these records pertained to Afrikaans as a primary language, while 4 referred to English as a primary language.

The first report referred to research conducted by Martha Amutehya on the participation of the Active Learners in the BETD Inset Teachers classroom in the Ondangwa West and East Education region. Her study indicated that the lack of textbooks and other essential materials at schools was hampering teachers in their attempts to achieve maximum learner participation (*New Era*, 12/01/2005).

In a survey conducted amongst Afrikaans youth by the Voortrekkers (a pathfinder-type Afrikaans youth movement), it was found that most of the participants believed that Afrikaans would continue to exist as an official language. More than two thirds of respondents believed that their children would receive education in Afrikaans (*Volksblad*, 05/07/2005 and 13/07/2005; *Beeld*, 07/07/2005).

A study conducted by the ATKV indicated that more than 46,3% of the population in South Africa can speak and understand Afrikaans. This exceeds the corresponding figure for English by 3,2%. The study was conducted in collaboration with the CSIR (*Burger*, 24/09/2005).

The continued use of English as a medium of instruction in schools is condemning most black pupils to an inferior education, according to Dr Kathleen Heugh of the Human Resource Sciences Research Council. The findings of her study revealed that the majority of school-going children are expected to learn through the medium of a second language, even before they have developed sufficient proficiency in that language (*City Press*, 9/10/2005). In a similar study conducted during the 1950s in Britain, it was found that pupils who were taught in their mother tongue achieved better results than those taught in English. In spite of the results of these and many other studies, parents insist that their children should be taught in English as soon as possible (*Citizen*, 09/11/2005).

Coverage of research matters gives an indication of the level of dissemination of research results. The minimal coverage of such matters during 2005 suggests that more work could be done to promote language research. However, the type of research that is covered in the printed media tends to be anecdotal in nature.

### **3.3.5. Focus on language renovation**

The 7 records covering aspects of language renovation focused on Afrikaans. All of these records were published in the *Volksblad*; and 5 of them appeared in the regular language column by Anton Prinsloo. The researchers are somewhat concerned about the low number of records on language renovation, which may

point to a faulty selection process. However, since narrow linguistic issues of this kind are not the main focus of the SALRM, more immediate attention will not be devoted to this matter at this stage.

#### 4. Language-related complaints lodged with official bodies

##### 4.1. Introduction

Various official councils exist, where the public can lodge complaints regarding the actual or supposed violation of their language rights; or regarding offensive, crude or indecent use of language by the transmitters of public broadcasts. Complaints lodged with Pansalb regarding the (perceived) disregard of language rights are dealt with in par. 4.2, while the submission of complaints to other official councils, including the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, will be discussed in par. 4.3.

##### 4.2. Complaints lodged with PanSALB

###### **4.2.1. For the period 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005**

The language rights complaints lodged with PanSALB were examined by the researchers during two visits paid to PanSALB's head office in Pretoria, on 26 February 2007 and 30 – 31 July 2007. During the period under review, only 21 complaints were lodged (M372 – M 392), as against the 39 complaints that were lodged in 2004. (Twenty-six complaints were lodged in 2003, while 234 were lodged in 2002.)

The languages against which alleged language rights violations had been perpetrated were:

Afrikaans: 15 (M372/4/5/6/7/8, 380/4/5/6/8/9, 390/1/2)

African languages in general: 2 (M 379, 383)

Ndebele: 1 (M 387)

Sotho: 1 (M381)

Xhosa/Zulu: 1 (M 373)

English: 1 (M 382)

Total: 21

Complaints were lodged mainly by individuals, in 15 cases out of 21 (M 372/3/4/5/9, 380/1/2/3/4/5/7/8/9, 390). The remaining 6 complaints were lodged by organisations, viz. the Democratic Alliance (M 376), the Vereniging vir Regslui vir Afrikaans (Society for Legal Practitioners for Afrikaans) (M 377), the Heraldic Society (M 378), the Vriende van Afrikaans (Friends of Afrikaans) (M 386, 391) and the Genootskap vir die Handhawing van Afrikaans (Association for the Maintenance of Afrikaans) (M 392).

In keeping with the trend of the previous years, the state was once again the source that prompted the highest number of complaints. In particular, administrative actions at the first level of Government were a source of language rights violations, accounting for 8 of the 21 complaints. Specific departments in this regard included the Department of Justice with 2 complaints (M 373, 392), the SAPS (M 376, 384), the Department of Labour (M 380), Internal Affairs (M 383), Post and Telegraphs (M 391) and Culture (M 378).

Three complaints were lodged against the second level of Government, namely, the Western Cape Road Safety Council (M 374), the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (M 386) and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (M 389).

Three complaints arose from alleged language rights violations resulting from actions taken by local authorities (third level), namely Thabazimbi (M 382), Setsoto, i.e. Ficksburg, Clocolan, Marquard and Senekal (M 381), and Vanderbijlpark (M 390).

Complaints were submitted against two statutory bodies, viz. the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (M 377) and Unisa (M 379).

Because section 6 of the Constitution prescribes the use, regulation and monitoring of language by the first, second and third levels of government, language matters pertaining to the three levels are classified as official. On the other hand, business, culture and the media, for instance, are not compelled by law to uphold the language stipulations of the Constitution. Therefore, actions taken by these institutions which resulted in complaints are classified as unofficial. In such cases, there is no question of a language rights complaint; and therefore, PanSALB has no jurisdiction – although PanSALB usually attempts to resolve the matter amicably. Four unofficial complaints were lodged, viz. against ABSA (M 372); an old-age home in Limpopo (M 387); Medicross (M 388); and a firm of attorneys (Santam) (M 375). One of these cases (M 387) was referred to the Commission for the Promotion of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CPRCLC) (M 387), and one was referred to the Equity Court (M 388).

One “complaint” (M 385) was totally irrelevant, and the file was therefore closed.

There were thus only 16 complaints against official state organs that merited further involvement on the part of PanSALB. Of these, 6 were successfully resolved (M 373, 378, 380, 381, 382, 392), while 8 files were closed for various reasons – in most cases, mainly because complainants did not respond to further enquiries by PanSALB (M 374, 376, 377, 379, 383, 384, 390, 391). Two cases (M 386, 389) were carried over to 2006. At the time of the last visit of the researchers to PanSALB (31 July 2007), these cases had still not been settled. In the case of M 386, PanSALB is apparently still awaiting information from its Cape Town office, after various requests (10/10/05, 22/10/05, 11/11/05, and 18/01/06); while in the case of M 389, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education had still not reacted to PanSALB’s enquiries by 31 July 2007.

The failure to respond on the part of institutions under investigation for alleged disregard of language rights was identified as a serious problem. When the files dealing with the unresolved complaints reported on in previous SALRM reports were examined, it was discovered that enquires that had been made by PanSALB in 2003 still remained unanswered, e.g. in the case of M 319 (Polokwane Municipality), M 323 (Dispute Resolution Centre), M 329 (Public Servants Association).

In other cases, PanSALB seems to have displayed a tendency to close files too easily. In the case of M 391, the Friends of Afrikaans complained on behalf of 101 tenants who rented post office boxes, who had received their renewal notices only in English. After an enquiry by PanSALB, the post office undertook to send notices in Afrikaans or in Afrikaans/English – but only to the 101 tenants. The file was then closed. A hundred tenants are now satisfied; but nothing further was done by PanSALB to promote multilingualism in this instance; and thousands of other tenants, who did not complain to PanSALB, are still dissatisfied.

More or less the same can be said about M 390. In this case, a private person complained because the motor-licensing department of Vanderbijlpark had refused to accept a letter written in Afrikaans. The motor-licensing department evaded their responsibility, and referred the case to the Gauteng Provincial Helpdesk. In the meantime, the motor-licensing department accepted the specific Afrikaans letter and reacted to it – whereupon PanSALB promptly closed the file. While the specific case was resolved, the principle of the matter did not receive attention.

On the other hand, many successes can also be reported. When a private person approached PanSALB because he was unable to obtain court reports in his mother

tongue (Xhosa/Zulu), PanSALB approached the Department of Justice. The latter agreed to provide translation services (M 373).

After intervention by PanSALB, a complaint lodged by the GHA (M 392) was successfully resolved. The GHA complained, in an undated letter (apparently written in December 2005), about hate speech that had been uttered by a judge in the military court, who called the use of Afrikaans *walglik* (vulgar). PanSALB referred the complaint to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). In November 2006, after various enquiries, the SAHRC began with their investigation, which was successfully completed in May 2007. The SAHRC declared, *inter alia*, in a letter to the chairman of the GHA: "People should be encouraged to use language(s) that they understand and where [this] is not possible they should be provided [with] interpreters." If it had not been for PanSALB's continued intervention, this result would not have been achieved.

#### **4.2.2. For the period before 1 January 2005**

Because of the long period of time that elapses before a file is closed, the files that had been categorised under "no outcome" in previous SALRM reports were again examined when the PanSALB office was visited in July 2007. Cases dating as far back as May 2004, which had since then been successfully settled, included, *inter alia*, M 348, M 349, M 358, M 359, M 366 and M 368. This is indicative of an improvement in the success rate, as reflected in the previous reports.

Of special interest is M348, concerning the Compensation Commissioner. Since the inception of the SALRM in 2002, the action of the Compensation Commissioner in making forms available in English only, had been the subject of most of the language rights complaints lodged with PanSALB, on a continual basis. As reported in SALRM 2004, PanSALB took the Compensation Commissioner (first respondent), the Minister of Labour (second respondent) and the Director-General of the Department of Labour (third respondent) to court. In its ruling, the Court, in the person of Judge Hartzenberg, declared the decision of the respondents to adopt English as the only official language in which to communicate, to be unlawful and unconstitutional; and ordered the respondents, *inter alia*, to draft a proper language policy and submit it to the applicant, i.e. PanSALB, for scrutiny.

On 24 June 2005, a Hearing Committee meeting took place in the PanSALB offices with representatives of the Department of Labour, during which it was decided that:

- i. The Department would translate identification documents into all of the official languages;

- ii. The Department would implement its language policy and would inform PanSALB on its progress;
- iii. The Department would translate all other forms into all of the official languages.

On 6 October 2005, the Director-General reported that identification documents had been translated into all of the official languages; that the Department was in the process of installing a language unit to ensure that the language policy would be fully and properly implemented; and that the translation of other documents into all of the official languages was progressing well.

The other complaints which were successfully resolved were the following:

M349: S. Nkosi vs Badplaas Primary School: The complainant requested that siSwati should be included as one of the school's languages, since approximately 50% of the learners were siSwati-speaking. With the help of PanSALB, the school adopted a new language policy.

M 358 and 359: Krugersdorp Agricultural Society vs Department of Provincial and Local Government: The Agricultural Society complained that the Department had issued a piece of legislation, affecting a wide range of property owners across the language spectrum, in English only. The Department's response was that the document had also been translated into Zulu, and that the Department had thus fulfilled the requirement regarding multilingualism. After more complaints (M359) and requests for translation of the document into Afrikaans, a Hearing Committee meeting took place on 4 May 2005, during which it was decided that the document would be translated into all of the official languages. Copies of the translation were sent to the complainants, and the matter was amicably resolved.

M 366: P. Mogapi vs Department of Justice and Constitutional Development: The complainant was an accused person conducting his defence at the Pretoria Magistrate's Court. He requested assistance from the Court to translate the docket into Tswana, as he did not understand the legal terms. The Court refused the request. PanSALB regarded the Court's refusal as a violation of the complainant's language rights. After several attempts, and after correspondence had been entered into, PanSALB informed the complainant (on 18 May 2005) that the Department would translate the document; and this matter, too, was amicably resolved.

M 368: J.G. Liebenberg vs Gauteng Department of Social Development: Rev. Liebenberg, on behalf of the Christian Welfare Board, complained that the Department had refused to accept the Board's correspondence in Afrikaans. After

various attempts had been made to settle the matter, a Hearing Committee meeting took place on 4 May 2005, during which it was decided that the Department must submit interim proposals to PanSALB on how they planned to address the language needs of those involved. It was agreed that proposals for a language plan should be submitted before 30 September 2005.

#### 4.3. Complaints lodged with other bodies

An official organisation that receives numerous language complaints (albeit not language rights complaints), is the Broadcasting Complaints Tribunal. In 2005, the following cases were lodged, inter alia:

- Case 03/05 against Cape Talk over offensive language;
- Case 29/05 against YFM over hate speech;
- Case 30/05 against SABC news over use of the word Tshwane;
- Case 34/05 against Highveld Stereo over labelling of University of Pretoria students referring to race or language;
- Case 42/05 against MNet over hate speech and blasphemy;
- Case 51/05 against e-TV news item over biased reporting;
- Case 55/05 against e-TV news item over misleading, biased and untruthful headline.

In all of these cases, the complaints were not upheld.

The Advertising Standards Authority is another statutory body with which language-related complaints can be lodged. In the year 2004/2005, 1951 complaints were received; while the number of complaints for the year 2005/2006 amounted to 4086. In terms of language, culture and religion, the following complaints submitted to the ASA directorate serve as examples:

- 5 May 2005, against a Ford television commercial, submitting that it was offensive and disrespectful to the Hindu religion;
- 7 June 2005, against a Kulula.com television commercial, submitting that it was offensive and made fun of the Indian community;
- 26 August 2005, against a Polka.co.za commercial, submitting that it was offensive and made fun of the Afrikaans-speaking community;

- 12 September 2005, against a daily voice newspaper radio commercial, submitting that it was offensive, racist and pornographic;
- 15 September 2005, against a Teazers Restaurant radio commercial, submitting that it was offensive because of its use of suggestive and foul language;
- 17 November 2005, against the Independent Electoral Commission television commercial, submitting that it was offensive, as it portrayed the Afrikaner and farmer community as narrow-minded.

All of these complaints were dismissed. The only one which was upheld was a complaint submitted on 29 July 2005 against the Department of Transport of KwaZulu-Natal's "Keep left, pass right" initiative. In this case, it was submitted that the commercials were offensive because the "bleeped-out" swear-words left little to the imagination, and that the commercials set a bad example to consumers, especially children.

## 5. Language litigation

### 5.1. Introduction

A high premium is accorded to litigation as an instrument of language rights activism (Martel, 1999; Del Valle, 2003). In comparison with Canada, linguistic rights litigation in South Africa is an under-utilised form of linguistic rights activism. For the period 1982 to 1997, twenty rulings relating to section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of 1982 were given. During the period from 1999 to 2000, the Commissioner of Official languages of Canada was involved in 15 litigations; during the period 2000 to 2001, in five litigations; and during the period 2001 to 2002, in four litigations (*Annual Report, 2000, 2001, 2002*). In the next section, cases of linguistic rights litigation, the importance of language in ensuring a fair trial, and general language matters discussed in courts during the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005, will be considered.

### 5.2. Linguistic rights litigation

An important case of linguistic rights litigation occurred in February 2005, when the Governing Body of the Mikro Primary School approached the Cape of Good Hope Provincial Division with a request to set aside the measures taken by the Western Cape Minister of Education, who had declared the school to be a dual-medium school (*Governing Body of Mikro School and other v Western Cape Minister of Education and others [2005] 2 ALL SA 37(C)*).

Since the founding of the school in 1973, Mikro Primary School had been a single-medium school, with Afrikaans as the language of instruction. In December 2004 (on the day before schools were to close for the summer holidays for that year), the Department had directed the school, under threat of sanction, to admit certain learners to Grade 1 at the start of the first term of the following year, in January 2005, and to provide instruction to them in English, the language chosen by their parents. On the day on which the public schools re-opened, two senior officials accompanied 21 learners wishing to receive their education, with English as the language of instruction, at the Mikro Primary School. Another primary school, a parallel-medium school (using both Afrikaans and English as the languages of tuition), was situated in the same school district. In fact, it was located only 1 200 metres away from the Mikro Primary School, and was not filled to capacity. Thus, it could easily have accommodated the 21 learners.

In his sentence, Judge Thring referred to section 28(2) of the Constitution, which provides for “[a] child’s best interest [to be] of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child”. Although the best interests of the 21 children were of paramount importance, another principle was at stake here, namely the “value of legality”, that is, “the simple principle that the State must obey the law”. The Judge stipulated:

That is a principle which is so fundamental and so important in any civilized country that it must be only extremely rarely, if ever, that the rule of law can be “held hostage” [...] to the best interest of children. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how it could ever be in the best interest of children, in the long term, to grow up in a country where the State and its organs and functionaries have been elevated to a position where they can regard themselves as being above the law, because the rule of law has been abrogated as far as they are concerned. It could be cogently argued, I think, that a court which, by its orders, exposed children to the risk of growing up in such a place would be doing them a greater disservice than a court which merely ordered that they be removed from one school and placed in another, equally acceptable to their parents, and only a short distance away (p 56 [2005] 2 ALL SA 37 (C)).

Not satisfied with the judgement, the concerned Education Department appealed to the highest court against the whole of the judgement sentence, in terms of which the Department was ordered, *inter alia*, to place the above-mentioned 21 learners at another suitable school or schools on a permanent basis.

The appeal was heard in the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa (case No. 140/05) in May 2005; and the verdict was delivered on 27 June 2005 by Judge Streicher. The Supreme Court of Appeal upheld all the decisions taken by the Cape

of Good Hope Provincial Division. The Court disagreed with the Department's interpretation of section 29(2) of the Constitution, namely that everyone has the right to receive education in the official language of his or her choice *at each and every educational institution* where this is reasonably practicable. Judge Streicher pointed out that if this were the correct interpretation of section 29(2), it would mean that a group of Afrikaans learners would be entitled to claim the right to be taught in Afrikaans at an English-medium school immediately adjacent to an Afrikaans-medium school which was not completely filled to capacity, provided that this group of Afrikaans learners could prove that it would be reasonably practicable to provide education in Afrikaans at that school. Since the right in question extends to "everyone", such an interpretation would also imply that boys have a constitutional right to be educated at a school for girls, if this is reasonably practicable (p. 21, case No. 140/05).

According to the Appeal Court, the right to receive education in the official language or languages of one's choice is a right against the State; and section 29(2) of the Constitution recognises various reasonable educational alternatives available to the State to give effect to this constitutional right, including single-medium institutions. In the view of the Court, this is a clear indication that in terms of section 29(2), everyone has a right to receive an education in an official language of his or her choice at a public educational institution, to be provided by the State if this is reasonably practicable. This does not imply, however, that the right to be so instructed at each and every public educational institution should be subject only to the criterion of reasonable practicability. It follows that the learners in question had a constitutional right to receive education in English at a public educational institution, provided by the State, if this was reasonably practicable; but, even if it was reasonably practicable to provide such education at Mikro Primary School (the second respondent), the learners did not have a constitutional right to receive their education, in English, from the second respondent [Mikro Primary School] (p. 21, case No. 140/05).

In the light of these and other reasons (not discussed here), the appeal by the Department was dismissed with costs.

Also in the Northern Cape, two Kuruman schools, the Kalahari High School and Seodin Primary, as well as the Northern Cape Agricultural School in Jan Kempdorp, asked the court in May to set aside the Department of Education's decision to enforce the provision of dual-medium instruction at these schools.

At a late stage, after the arguments had been concluded, PanSALB submitted a written order to become part of the legal proceedings in the capacity of an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court). The application was initially opposed by the Department of Education; but because PanSALB did not traverse the facts of the application, the Department later withdrew its opposition to PanSALB's intervention. The applicant schools did not take issue with PanSALB's intercession at any stage.

Judgement was given in October. Judge Kgomo upheld the MEC's order that the three schools should make provision for teaching in English, in order to accommodate black pupils, mainly on the grounds of the fact that not one of the three schools had an approved language policy, as stipulated in section 6(2) of the Schools Act (Act No. 84 of 1996). (A later report in the *Volksblad*, on 5 November 2005, revealed that not one of the 431 public schools in the Northern Cape had an approved language policy.)

The Northern Cape High Court judgement contrasts with the judgement made in the Western Cape High Court in the case of Mikro Primary School. According to a lawyer representing the Northern Cape education department, the two cases were different. In the Northern Cape case, the decision was not language-related, but place-related (*Business Day*, 25/10/2005). The MEC in the Northern Cape ordered the language and admissions policy changes because of overcrowding in other Northern Cape schools. In the Mikro case, on the other hand, places had been available in other schools for the 21 children involved.

### 5.3. Importance of language in ensuring a fair trial

Section 35 of the Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996) deals with the right of arrested, detained and accused persons. Section 35(3) (k) states:

Every accused person has a right to a fair trial, which includes the right to be tried in a language that the accused person understands or, if that is not practicable, to have the proceedings interpreted in that language.

In the year in question, two review cases were heard respectively in the Witwatersrand Division and the Transvaal Division of the High Court, during which the importance of language in a fair trial was emphasised. In *S v Van der Merwe* [2006] JOL 17375(T), the Court ruled, per Judge Smit J, on 13 June 2005, that the case brought before the Court for review should not be referred back to the magistrate; and ordered that the accused's conviction, and the sentence imposed on him, should be set aside, and that the fine that he had already paid should be immediately refunded to him, on the grounds of, *inter alia*, the fact that

the accused, who was clearly Afrikaans-speaking, had never been asked about his preference regarding the language in which the case should be conducted, and an interpreter had never been made available to him. The magistrate had paid no heed to the express wish of the accused's witness to testify in Afrikaans, and had proceeded to interrogate her in English, without the use of an interpreter. Later, when the witness once again requested to be allowed to testify in Afrikaans, the magistrate did not even respond to her request; and the interrogation of the witness continued to be conducted in English.

According to the Court, this constituted a violation of the right of the accused's witness, and also that of the accused, to have the case conducted in a language of their choice (*S v Van der Merwe* [2006] JOL 17375(T) at 4).

In *S v Prince* [2006] JOL 16730 (W), an Afrikaans-speaking person had been found guilty on two counts of rape in the Soweto regional court; and the case was referred to the High Court for sentencing, since sentencing in this case probably fell outside of the jurisdiction of a regional court. In the verdict given on 5 August 2005, the Court found, per Judge Moshidi J., that in this case, too – because the accused's legal representative was not able to speak Afrikaans – the accused had not had effective legal representation and, therefore, had also not been given a fair trial; and the accused's convictions in respect of two counts of rape were set aside.

Regarding the importance of language in a fair trial, the Court made the following pronouncement:

In ensuring that an accused has a fair trial not only is such accused entitled to legal representation, but also a legal representative with whom he [can] communicate in his own language (*S v Prince* [2006] JOL16730(W) at 9).

#### 5.4. Language matters discussed in courts

In another case, language matters were discussed in court. This instance was not an example of language rights litigation; but language matters were brought up in support of, or against – *pro* or *contra* – a certain argument. In *Unlawful occupiers, school site v City of Johannesburg 2005(4) SA 199 SCA*, the City of Johannesburg municipality applied for the eviction of the residents of an informal settlement, consisting of 700 families, from a property zoned for schools. The High Court granted the order. In an appeal, three arguments were raised, including the fact that the notice was only in English and had only been conveyed in written form, while the overwhelming majority of the community occupying the school site spoke one or other of the indigenous African languages; and many of them were

functionally illiterate. The Court found no merit in the arguments, and the appeal was dismissed. The Court found that, although the notice had only been furnished in English, news of an application “spreads like wildfire” in a high-density informal settlement, and the notice had indeed been effective. Given the resistance offered by a substantial number of respondents, all the occupants of the school site would have been approached to join the opposition; and they were familiar with the contents of the notice, in spite of the fact that it was only in English.

## 6. An analysis of language activism as covered by the printed media

### 6.1. Introduction

Language activism in South Africa is a well-known phenomenon. This section will provide a selective overview of the *status quo* in respect of language activism in South Africa, as reflected in the mainstream South African printed media for the period under review.

### 6.2. Language activism and language rights activism

Language activism endeavours to bring about change in social practices and structures that influence the maintenance and development of (linguistic) communities. Such activism can pose a challenge to socio-political structures that reproduce non-equitable power relations. In this respect, it is thus no different from other types of activism, such as gender activism, political activism, etc.

It is important that a distinction should be drawn between language activism *per se* and *language rights activism*. Language activism may also be related to political pressurising, and is not always necessarily concerned merely with language. For instance, the Basque language activists in Spain and the Tamil language activists in Sri Lanka have a very clear political agenda, namely that of political separatism. Thus, there is usually a link between language activism and nationalism or ethnic movements. Language rights activism, on the other hand, is specifically directed at bringing about change in the legal domain. Language rights activism may comprise a manifestation of a rising consciousness, and a rejection of conditions of submission/ oppression/ control/ domination/ authority/ centralisation/ monopoly.

Martel (1999: 47) distinguishes six instruments of language rights activism, namely *research, media coverage, the formation of pressure groups (lobbying), community mobilisation, litigation*, and – the most extreme form – *violence*. Du Plessis (2004: 170) distinguishes a seventh instrument of language rights activism, namely *the*

*lodging of complaints*, which entails the formal submission of complaints to an official institution which has been specially designated for that purpose, for example, PanSALB in South Africa. The lodging of complaints with an official institution may culminate in litigation, but need not necessarily do so. Thus, although related to litigation, the lodging of language rights complaints is, in itself, a distinctive instrument of language rights activism. Lobbying is distinguished from community mobilisation in that an attempt is made, by means of lobbying, to win over *influential* person(s) (particularly politicians or public officers) and to persuade them to adopt a specific standpoint. In community mobilisation, an attempt is made to bring about change by making use of the power of *numbers* – masses – in order to achieve a specific objective.

Six further sub-instruments of community mobilisation may be identified, namely:

- i. physically active and verbal protests or demonstrations;
- ii. the withholding of financial support – boycotting;
- iii. petitioning, i.e., the mobilisation of like-minded malcontents for a particular cause, thereby obtaining signatures for a petition;
- iv. activist media coverage;
- v. pressurising the masses to achieve specific objectives; and
- vi. the threat of litigation.

All of these instruments are also applicable to language activism in general.

In this report, the more general term, “language activism”, will be used; but where necessary, the distinction in respect of language rights activism will be made.

### 6.3. Coverage of language activism in the South African printed media

Some of the instruments of language activism are also discussed in separate sections of this report. Section 3 deals with media coverage, section 4 with language complaints, section 5 with litigation and section 6.4.1 with language (rights) research. However, these particular sections do not focus on language activism as such. In this section, a specific overview of coverage of language activism in the printed media will be provided. The focus will not only fall on coverage of the different instruments of language activism noted above, but the different role-players involved in language activism, the different languages concerned, as well as the incidents or events that prompted language activist behaviour during 2005, will also be considered.

Language activism featured in a total of 106 records during 2005, accounting for 7.45% of all the records in the SALRM database for that period. Of these records, 76 (71.6%) were published in Afrikaans newspapers and 30 (28.3%) in English newspapers. As will be seen below, the higher amount of coverage by Afrikaans newspapers can be attributed to the nature of the language activist endeavours. Some of the notable issues that sparked off language activist responses include changes to place names, with the focus on Afrikaans names such as Pretoria and Louis Trichardt, and the medium of instruction in schools and tertiary institutions, with reference to various schools in the Northern and Western Cape, as well as the University of Stellenbosch. Details will be provided in the overview below.

### **6.3.1. Incidents and events that prompted language activism**

Language activist initiatives featured fairly prominently in coverage of language problems, particularly with regard to the language issue at university level.

The convocation of the University of Stellenbosch (US) led the struggle to maintain the use of Afrikaans at the University by sending out a letter to more than 70 000 old students. In this letter, the former decision of the convocation to position the US as an Afrikaans university was reconfirmed (*Beeld*, 29/09/2005). A motion to implement the 2002 language policy was approved by the convocation (*Burger*, 7/11/2005, 14/11/2005; *Business Day*, 14/11/2005). Staff and students of the University of Stellenbosch also signed a petition for the retention of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction, and as the institutional language (*Burger*, 18/10/2005). On 19 November 2005, it was reported that the US had reconfirmed its commitment to the 2002 language decision (*Burger*, 19/11/2007). The Senate, however, decided to accept the proposal for dual-medium education, and supported the T-option that was being offered in the Faculty of Humanities (*Burger*, 01/12/2005).

Ironically, while the battle was being waged for the maintenance of Afrikaans at the University of Stellenbosch, a group of students from the University of Johannesburg, the Technikon Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria and the Tshwane University of Technology protested against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction (*Beeld*, 22/02/2005; *Rapport*, 27/02/2005).

Complaints against the University of Pretoria that were lodged with PanSALB received publicity. These complaints followed after allegations were made that Afrikaans classes for third- and fourth-year students in the Department of Engineering had been discontinued. According to the head of the department, this was not true. Some modules were available in both Afrikaans and English (*Beeld*, 11/04/2005). A group of Afrikaans students protested against the marginalisation of

Afrikaans, specifically in the Department of Engineering, by disrupting a meeting between the Vice-Rector and the student council (*Beeld*, 19/07/2005; *Pretoria News*, 28/07/2005). This action was followed by a protest march against the deliberate abolishment of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction at the University. The students also asked for the appointment of a committee to monitor the language policy of the University, as well as the appointment of staff who would be able to teach in Afrikaans (*Beeld*, *Business Day* and *Pretoria News*, 19/08/2005).

Prominent media attention was given to language in education, with specific reference to schools in South Africa. Some of the coverage in this regard alluded to language activist initiatives in various schools in South Africa.

The relevant coverage indicates that the Northern Cape Education Department continued with its plans to transform five schools in Kuruman and one in Jan Kempdorp from Afrikaans single-medium schools to (Afrikaans/English) dual-medium schools. Three of these schools indicated that they would fight this decision in the High Court, namely Kalahari High, the Hoër Landbouskool and the Seodin Primary School (*Volksblad*, 15/01/2005, 19/01/2005, 07/05/2005 and 12/05/2005; *Beeld*, 05/05/2005 and 11/05/2005; *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 10/05/2005, 11/05/2005). The parents of learners attending the Wrenchville Primary School protested against the forced transfer of learners to Seodin Primary School and the Kuruman schools. Legal action was to be taken against the Department of Education. Parents also staged a peaceful march to the district offices, where a memorandum was handed over (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 01/02/2005). The Hoër Landbouskool in the Northern Cape held meetings with the MEC and HOD for Education to discuss grievances relating to the enforcement of dual-medium instruction at the school. This followed after the school had indicated that they intended to take the Department to court regarding the issue of the language of instruction at the school (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 14/02/2005). Learners protested against dual-medium classes and demanded separate English and Afrikaans classes (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 23/02/2005). Kalahari High School learners also protested against the use of dual-medium instruction and demanded to be taught in their mother tongue (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 18/02/2005; *Burger*, 12/04/2005). Children of the school protested by means of a strike, as well as a petition that was handed over (*Volksblad*, 18/02/2005). PanSALB applied for permission to attend the court cases of the three schools in the Northern Cape in the capacity of an *amicus curiae*, and to give written arguments in this regard (*Volksblad*, 12/05/2005; *Beeld* and *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 13/05/2005). PanSALB Northern Cape pointed out that, as an impartial and independent body,

it would present arguments based on policies and language rights. This could assist the court in respect of the final decision (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 19/05/2005). However, the judgement of the High Court regarding PanSALB's involvement was reserved indefinitely (*Volksblad*, 02/07/2005).

During October 2005, the Northern Cape High Court ruled in favour of the Department, and issued an order that the three Afrikaans schools should become dual-medium schools. The Court found that none of the three schools had an approved language policy (*Beeld and Business Day*, 25/10/2005; *Beeld*, 26/10/2005; *Volksblad*, 05/11/2005). The governing bodies, however, pointed out that it is the constitutional right of children to be educated in the language of their choice (*Rapport*, 30/10/2005). It was announced during October 2005 that the schools would appeal against the ruling (*Beeld*, 12/11/2005).

The Laerskool Mikro (Kuilsrivier) debacle, in particular, received prominent media attention during 2005. The school appealed against the decision of the Department of Education of the Western Cape that English learners should be enrolled at the school (*Burger*, 19/01/2005). The school's governing body took the Provincial Department of Education to court, in order to contest the instruction to establish an English-medium class in this Afrikaans-medium school (*Cape Argus and Burger*, 20/01/2005). The school applied for an interdict against the admission of the 21 English-speaking learners. The parents of the English learners objected to this application (*Burger*, 27/01/2005 and 09/02/2005; *Cape Times*, 09/02/2005; *Cape Argus*, 31/01/2005). The Premier, Ebrahim Rasool, tried to settle this dispute out of court (*Burger*, 05/02/2005 and 07/02/2005). The High Court, however, ruled in favour of the school. The ruling was seen by many as a triumph for Afrikaans-medium education (*Burger*, 19/02/2005; *Cape Argus*, 21/02/2005). In response, the Western Cape Education Department appealed against the ruling during March 2005. Leave to appeal at the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein was granted (*The Citizen, Sunday Argus, Burger and Rapport*, 19/02/2005 and 13/03/2005; *Burger*, 10/03/2005, 14/03/2005 and 17/03/2005; *Cape Times*, 14/03/2005; *Beeld*, 05/04/2005). The appeal hearing started in May 2005 (*Burger*, 24/05/2005). The court dismissed the application with costs and ruled that the school's language policy should be determined by its governing body (*Business Day*, 28/06/2005; *The Star, Beeld and Burger*, 28/06/2005; *The Citizen and Burger*, 29/06/2005). Cosas objected to this ruling by planning a protest march at the school, which did not materialise, owing to the MEC's intervention (*Burger and Business Day*, 18/07/2005). The MEC for Education in the Western Cape, Cameron Dugmore, indicated that mother-tongue education would not be compromised by the

Department's approach. However, he pointed out that people should bear in mind that the demographic profile of the country had changed dramatically (*Saturday Weekend Argus*, 05/03/2005).

The Chairperson of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities suggested classroom interpreting as a solution to the problem – a solution which had been applied in some schools and at some tertiary institutions (*Rapport*, 06/03/2005). The National Department of Education committed itself to carry out a special investigation into Afrikaans-medium education, as well as the situation of the schools that would provide education in Afrikaans (*Beeld*, 31/03/2005). In a report compiled by the South African Human Rights Commission on the situation at Laerskool Mikro, it was pointed out that the human rights of the 21 English learners were being violated, owing to the fact that the learners had been placed in a small classroom in the school. The Western Cape Department of Education was also blamed for not placing the children in a suitable school (*Burger*, 17/08/2005). The governing body of the school accused the Human Rights Commission of being biased in their finding, after the Commission proposed that English grade 1 learners should stay on until the end of the year, and then be enrolled as learners at another school (*Burger*, 10/09/2005). The Western Cape Education Department indicated that discussions were being held with schools in the Kuilsriver area, with a view to accommodating the pupils (*Cape Times*, 12/09/2005). The saga reached a conclusion in November 2005, when the English children were accommodated by a nearby dual-medium school, De Kuilen (*Burger*, 25/11/2005).

A further school battle that drew publicity involved the Hoërskool Pretoria Noord. The Pretoria High Court appointed an advocate as a curator, to represent the interests of English-speaking pupils at the school. The school was involved in a legal battle with the education authorities, and launched an application to force the education authorities to provide, and pay the salaries of, additional teachers for English-medium classes, after the announcement that all additional posts were to be scrapped (*The Citizen and Beeld*, 22/06/2005).

Proposed changes to place names prompted various language activist initiatives.

Firstly, an action group, called the "Pretoria bly Pretoria Aksiegroep", was established to oppose the changing of the name of the capital city. Publicity was given to the disruption of a council meeting by this group, in protest against the name change (*Beeld*, 20, 21, 24, 28, 29/01/2005). The Pretoria Civilian Action Committee (PCAC), comprised of members of different Afrikaans organisations,

was established to fight for the retention of the name Pretoria (*Beeld, The Citizen, 10/03/2005*). Secondly, *Beeld* reported on 4 February 2005 that the DA had drawn up a petition against the renaming of Pretoria. This petition was launched at the University of Pretoria (*Beeld, 17/02/2005*) and submitted to the Gauteng Legislature on 12 April 2005, with about 32 000 signatures opposing the name change (*Beeld, 12/04/2005*). *The Star* of 13/04/2005 and 11/05/2005 reported that Desiree van der Walt of the DA had submitted the petition to the National Assembly. Thirdly, the *Pretoria News* reported, on 31/03/2005 and 11/04/2005, that the DA had intensified their oppositional stance by launching a campaign to “prove” that Pretoria must remain Pretoria. The DA called on political parties, organised businesses, cultural organisations and the public to participate in a mass march on May 21 (*The Citizen, 11/05/2005, 20/05/2005; Beeld, 12/05/2005*). Thousands of people took part in the march, and a petition was handed over to the Director: Heritage, of the Department of Arts and Culture (*Rapport, City Press, 22/05/2005; Beeld, 23/05/2005*). It was also reported that the DA insisted on the resignation of the Mayor, Smangaliso Mkhatswah, as a result of the name-change dispute (*Beeld, Citizen, 24/03/2005*).

Fourthly, The DA and FF+ lodged a complaint with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCCSA) against the SABC, owing to the latter’s continued use of the name Tshwane when referring to Pretoria in broadcasting programmes (*Beeld, 11/04/2005, 24/05/2005; Business Day, 23/05/2005*). The BCCSA reserved judgement (*The Citizen, 24/05/2005*). Fifthly, the Pretoria Civilian Action Committee applied to the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa (ASA) to prevent the metro council from marketing the “City of Tshwane”, instead of Pretoria, as the capital of South Africa. The ASA ruled in favour of the PCAC (*Pretoria News, 05/05/2005; The Citizen, 11/05/2005*). The PCAC lodged a further complaint with the same body, after the metro council continued with the marketing of “Tshwane”. The ASA once again ruled in favour of the PCAC (*Rapport, 05/06/2005; The Citizen, 07/06/2005; Pretoria News, 27/07/2005; Beeld, 25/08/2005*). It was reported during December 2005 that the metro council had persisted with the use of the slogan, “City of Tshwane”, in spite of the ruling issued by the ASA (*Beeld, 14/12/2005*). Sixthly, the PCAC also submitted a petition to the Speaker of the National Assembly, requesting that Parliament should be asked to intervene, in order to resolve the renaming issue (*Beeld, 13/05/2005; Rapport, 15/05/2005*). The National Geographical Names Committee unanimously approved “Tshwane” as the new place name. Their recommendation was forwarded to Pallo Jordan for a final decision (*Pretoria News, Beeld, Business Day, The Star, 27/05/2005; Rapport, 29/05/2005*).

The renaming of Louis Trichardt as Makhado also featured prominently in the printed media. On 18 August 2005, a revision order was brought before the court by residents who did not wish the name to be changed. The residents alleged that they had not been involved in the decision regarding the name change, and that limited consultation had taken place. The debate regarding this name change had already begun in 2003, when the name change was announced in the *Government Gazette* (*Beeld*, 18/08/2005, 19/08/2005; *Pretoria News*, 19/08/2005; *The Citizen*, 19/08/2005, 20/08/2005). *Beeld* (20/08/2005) and *City Press* (21/08/2005) reported that the judge had reserved judgement on this case. On 8 September 2005, Judge Legodi dismissed, with costs, an application by the Louis Trichardt Chairpersons' Association to set aside the new name. The Association immediately appealed against the decision (*The Citizen*, *Beeld*, 09/09/2005, 17/09/2005, and 17/10/2005). It was also reported that the statue of King Makhado had been vandalised shortly after its unveiling. Supporters of the name Louis Trichardt were suspects (*The Star*, 15/09/2005; *Beeld*, 16/09/2005).

It was also reported in the printed media during November and December 2005 that a protest march had been held against the proposed renaming of Bloemfontein as Thabure. The march was initiated by the FF+ (*Volksblad*, 6/12/2005).

An interesting event relating to boycotting was initiated by Johann Rupert's decision to withdraw millions of rands' worth of advertisements from a British magazine. This step was taken because the magazine had described Afrikaans as the "ugliest language in the world" (*Rapport*, 04/12/2005; *Beeld*, 05/18/2005, 06/12/2005, 07/12/2005, 08/12/2005; *Burger*, 08/12/2005, 06/12/2005, 13/12/2005; *Volksblad*, 09/12/2005; *Pretoria News*, 10/12/2005; *Cape Argus*, 13/12/2005; *Saturday Star*, 10/12/2005; *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 09/12/2005).

On the basis of this brief overview, it can be deduced that proposed changes to Afrikaans place-names comprised some of the major language incidents that prompted language activist behaviour among Afrikaans communities during 2005. Also, attempts by different departments of education to tamper with the single-medium status of Afrikaans schools provoked the concerned communities to respond through language activist initiatives. Generally speaking, these communities made use of the more moderate instruments of language activism (petitions, etc.); but they were also willing to avail themselves of more confrontational instruments, such as demonstrations and litigation. Particularly in cases of governmental intervention at school level, communities responded by opting for litigation, which is still considered to be one of the most powerful instruments of language activism. However, it has

also been noted in this report that the results of the litigation were mixed, from the point of view of these communities.

An interesting matter, which warrants further investigation, is the assumption by the Northern Cape High Court that language policy must necessarily be in written form, and that in the absence of a written document in this regard, no language claims can be made by schools. This line of thinking goes against the established principle in the relevant literature that language policy does not always have to be in written form. The tendency within government ranks in South Africa to favour English (as opposed to other official languages) actually corroborates this principle, since this tendency can be said to constitute a case of *de facto* language policy (in other words, an unwritten policy – or a hidden agenda), despite the *de jure* language policy (in other words, the written policy), which requires government to function in at least two official languages.

### **6.3.2. *Role-players involved in language activism***

The main role-players in language activism during 2005 seem to have been Afrikaans institutions, groups, political parties and individuals. Specific groups were established to fight for the maintenance of the names of Pretoria and Louis Trichardt. In Pretoria, two groups were established, namely the “Pretoria bly Pretoria Aksiegroep” and the “Pretoria Civilian Action Committee”. Both were comprised of members of different Afrikaans organisations, and were established for the specific purpose of resisting the name change. The Democratic Alliance and the Freedom Front Plus also played a prominent role in the fight to keep the name of Pretoria, and to resist the proposed renaming of Bloemfontein. In the case of Louis Trichardt, a specialist activist group was also established, namely the “Louis Trichardt Chairpersons Association”. This group played a major role in the fight to retain the name. Apart from the political parties, the activist movement regarding place-name changes was spearheaded by newly established groups.

As far as resistance from the Afrikaans schools was concerned, a different approach was followed. In most cases, established structures (such as school governing bodies) opted for the language activist route. It has been noted in this report that school governing bodies played a prominent role in litigation attempts.

### **6.3.3. *Languages comprising the focus of language activism***

Of the 106 records relating to language activism, 71 (66.9%) pertained to Afrikaans as a primary language. The other 35 (33%) records did not refer to any specific primary language, as these records were concerned with the changing of place

names as a phenomenon. Thus, none of these 35 records focused on English, or any other language, as a primary language. It may thus be concluded that the printed media did not cover language activism among other communities during 2005.

#### 6.4. Instruments of language activism

This section will focus on coverage of language activism in terms of the major instruments of language activism noted above.

##### **6.4.1. Research**

Very little media coverage of language research occurred during 2005. Two studies, which focused on Afrikaans, received attention. One was conducted by the “Voortrekkers” and the other by the ATKV. The first study indicated that most of the participants believed that their children would receive education in Afrikaans (*Volksblad*, 05/07/2005 and 13/07/2005; *Beeld*, 07/07/2005). The second study indicated that a comparatively large number of people in South Africa can speak and understand Afrikaans (more so than in the case of English) (*Burger*, 24/09/2005).

This kind of research is predominantly activist in nature, as it is typically carried out by Afrikaans organisations whose primary objective is the maintenance of Afrikaans. The specific research presented by these organisations would be aimed at serving this purpose. In both instances, the “case” for Afrikaans is supported by the research results.

##### **6.4.2. Media coverage**

Media coverage was accorded to language activism during 2005. As pointed out earlier, the Afrikaans media displayed a greater interest in this regard. However, no records reflecting a more direct activist approach on the part of the printed media were found in the database.

##### **6.4.3. Lobbying**

Lobbying entails an attempt to win over influential person(s), particularly politicians, public officers, or prominent community leaders, editors or businessmen, in support of one’s cause. No records pertaining to this instrument of language activism were published during 2005.

#### 6.4.4. *Community mobilisation*

Community mobilisation is an attempt to bring about change by making use of numbers (masses) in order to achieve a specific objective. The six sub-instruments of community mobilisation are not separate, water-tight categories; and a certain degree of overlapping occurs.

An instance of community mobilisation that was covered during 2005 occurred when the DA called on political parties, organised businesses, cultural organisations and the public to join in the fight to retain the name of Pretoria (*The Citizen*, 11/05/2005 and 20/05/2005; *Beeld*, 12/05/2005). This resulted in a petition, which was drawn up and submitted to the Gauteng Legislature and the National Assembly. A further result was a mass demonstration that took place on May 21, during which a petition was handed over to the Director: Heritage of the Department of Arts and Culture.

The Freedom Front Plus mobilised the community of Bloemfontein to participate in a march against the proposed name change (*Volksblad*, 06/12/05).

A number of incidents occurred in which student communities were mobilised to take part in protest actions. In the first instance, students from the University of Johannesburg, the Technikon Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria and the Tshwane University of Technology protested against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction (*Beeld*, 22/02/2005; *Rapport*, 27/02/2005). A second group of students campaigned for the maintenance of Afrikaans at the University of Pretoria (*Beeld*, *Business Day* and *Pretoria News*, 19/08/2005).

##### 6.4.4.1. Boycotting

Boycotting entails the refusal to meet financial obligations, or the withholding of certain taxes, or other punitive measures aimed at forcing the perceived transgressor to change the *status quo*.

An interesting case of boycotting took place when Johann Rupert withdrew advertisements worth millions of rands from a British magazine, owing to the fact that the magazine had described Afrikaans as the “ugliest language in the world”.

A second case occurred when learners of the Hoër Landbouskool Noord-Kaapland in Jan Kempdorp boycotted their classes, in protest against the forced transformation of the school from a parallel-medium institution to a dual-medium institution (*Volksblad*, 18/02/2005).

#### 6.4.4.2. Threat of litigation

Litigation is one of the most effective forms of activism regarding linguistic rights. Threatening an institution which is perceived to be violating the language rights of a minority group with litigation, can serve as an effective course of action in order to persuade those concerned to stop their actions, on the one hand; and in order to mobilise the concerned community for support, on the other hand.

No instances of the threat of litigation were covered during 2005.

#### 6.4.4.3. Pressurising the masses

Pressurising the masses refers to inducing like-minded people, who are dissatisfied about decisions foisted on them by the state or another organisation, to resist these decisions in large numbers.

A case in point occurred when the convocation of the University of Stellenbosch sent a letter to more than 70 000 former students regarding the maintenance of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction (*Beeld*, 29/09/2005).

#### 6.4.4.4. Petitioning

An important subcategory of community mobilisation is the compilation and distribution of petitions bearing signatures. This entails mobilising like-minded activists, with a view to persuading the source of dissatisfaction to bring about change.

Three petitions were covered in the media during 2005 – one against the proposed renaming of Pretoria; one against the decision to introduce a dual-medium option (Afrikaans + English) at the University of Stellenbosch; and one against the forced change to dual-medium education at the Hoërskool Kalahari in Kuruman.

In the first of these cases, coverage was given to the DA's petition against the proposed renaming of Pretoria as Tshwane, during February 2005 (*Beeld*, 14/02/2005, 17/02/2005). The petition was launched at the University of Pretoria and submitted to the Gauteng Legislature with about 32 000 signatures. This was followed by a campaign initiated by the DA to prove that Pretoria should stay Pretoria (*Citizen*, 11/05/2005 and *Beeld*, 12/05/2005).

Coverage of the second petition occurred during October 2005. The petition by the staff and students of the University of Stellenbosch for the maintenance of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction and as the institutional language drew publicity (*Burger*, 18/10/2005).

A third petition was handed over by learners of the Hoërskool Kalahari in Kuruman to the area manager of the Department of Education, against the enforcement of dual-medium education (*Volksblad*, 18/02/2005).

#### 6.4.4.5. Demonstrations

Five demonstrations enjoyed coverage during 2005, including demonstrations against the proposed renaming of Pretoria; against the proposed renaming of Bloemfontein; against the enforcement of dual-medium education at Kuruman schools; and against the marginalisation of Afrikaans at the University of Pretoria.

In reaction to the proposed renaming of Pretoria as Tshwane – an issue that received prominent attention during 2005 – the DA called for political parties, organised businesses, cultural organisations and the public to participate in a mass march on 21 May 2005. Coverage was given to the event in the media. It was reported that thousands of people had taken part in a protest march against the proposed name change, and also that a petition had been handed over to the Director: Heritage of the Department of Arts and Culture at the end of the march (*Rapport, City Press*, 22/05/2005).

The march in protest against the suggested renaming of Bloemfontein as Thabure, organised by the FF+, also received publicity. This march was initiated after the Geographical Names Committee had been accused of not involving the community in their decisions (*Volksblad*, 06/12/2005).

Two different demonstrations in Kuruman received coverage, both during February 2005. The first demonstration entailed a peaceful march to the offices of the Department of Education by parents of the learners of Wrenchville Primary School (Kuruman). The parents staged this march in order to hand over a memorandum against the forced transfer of learners to the Seodin Primary School and the Kuruman Schools, owing to overcrowding (*Diamond Fields Advertiser*, 01/02/2005). The second demonstration took place in the form of a strike against the forced use of dual-medium instruction at another Northern Cape school, the Kalahari High School. This strike was organised by the learners, who demanded to be taught in their mother tongue. A petition was handed over to the Department of Education (*Diamond Fields Advertiser* and *Volksblad*, 18/02/2005; *Burger*, 12/04/2005).

The fifth demonstration was conducted by a group of students from the University of Pretoria, who disrupted a meeting between the Vice-Rector and the Student Council, in protest against the marginalisation of Afrikaans. This was followed by a protest

march against the deliberate abolishment of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in certain departments (*Beeld, Business Day* and *Pretoria News*, 19/08/2005).

#### **6.4.5. Language rights complaints**

Language rights complaints, as an instrument of language activism, were lodged with different bodies during 2005.

A total of 21 complaints were lodged with PanSALB, as the primary body commissioned to deal with language rights complaints. Most of these complaints were lodged by individuals (15 of the 21), while 6 complaints were lodged by organisations, including political parties and language organisations. Details regarding these complaints are discussed in Section 4 of this report.

Only a few of the complaints lodged with PanSALB were covered in the media. In the *Beeld* of 11/04/2005, it was reported that complaints had been lodged against the University of Pretoria, on the basis of allegations that Afrikaans classes in the Department of Engineering had been discontinued. A second complaint lodged with PanSALB received coverage in the *Beeld* of 14/07/2005. A complaint was lodged against the Gauteng Department of Social Development, on the grounds that this Department was disregarding Afrikaans. PanSALB instructed the Department to revise its policy before the end of September 2005, in order to avoid legal action.

Seven language complaints were also lodged with the Broadcasting Complaints Tribunal. Media coverage was given to one of these complaints, which was lodged by the DA and FF+ against the SABC, owing to the latter's continued use of the name Tshwane when referring to Pretoria in broadcasting programmes (*Beeld*, 11/04/2005, 24/05/2005; *Business Day*, 23/05/2005). The BCCSA reserved judgement (*Citizen*, 24/05/2005).

Complaints can also be lodged with the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Such complaints may be related, *inter alia*, to language, culture and religion. As noted earlier, one complaint lodged with the ASA received coverage during 2005, namely that of the Pretoria Civilian Action Committee. The Committee objected to the Tshwane Metro Council's marketing of the "City of Tshwane", instead of Pretoria, as the capital of South Africa. ASA ruled in favour of the PCAC (*Pretoria News*, 05/05/2005; *The Citizen*, 11/05/2005).

#### **6.4.6. Litigation**

Language rights litigation received coverage in three instances during 2005, namely with regard to the Louis Trichardt name-changing incident; the case of the Laerskool Mikro; and that of the three Northern Cape schools.

In the Louis Trichardt case, a revision order was brought before the court by residents who did not wish the name to be changed. Judgement was reserved. In September 2005, an application by the Louis Trichardt Chairpersons Association to set aside the new name was dismissed with costs.

In the second case, the governing body of the Mikro Laerskool took the Western Cape Department of Education to court, in order to contest the latter's decision to place English-speaking learners in an Afrikaans school. The Cape High Court ruled in favour of the school. After an appeal by the Department, the Supreme Court of Appeal rejected all decisions taken by the Department. The latter's appeal was dismissed with costs.

Three schools in the Northern Cape requested the court to set aside the Department of Education's decision to enforce dual-medium instruction in these schools. Judgement was given in October 2005, upholding the MEC's order that the three schools should make provision for teaching in English.

All three cases of litigation received intensive coverage during 2005.

#### **6.4.7. Violence**

Violence is the most radical form of agitation for language rights.

Only one incident, relating to a "milder" form of violence, was covered during 2005. This pertained to the renaming of Louis Trichardt as Makhado. The statue of King Makhado was painted orange, white and blue, in objection to the proposed name change (*Beeld*, 16/09/2005).

The findings made in this section can be summarised in the table below.

Instruments		Instances	Records
Research		2	2
Lobbying		0	0
Community mobilisation	Name change	2	3
	Medium of instruction	2	5
Language complaints		3	6
Litigation	Name change	1	16
	Medium of instruction	2	22
Violence		1	2
Boycotting		2	18
Pressurising the masses		1	3
Petitioning	Name change	1	15
	Medium of instruction	1	3
Demonstrations	Name change	2	5
	Medium of instruction	2	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>106</b>

**Table 1: Summary of printed media coverage of instruments of language activism during 2005**

From this table, it is clear that litigation as an instrument of language activism received the highest amount of coverage during 2005. Language complaints also received a high percentage of coverage during the mentioned year. No coverage was given to lobbying; and violence was only covered in one record.

## 6.5. Conclusion

In the foregoing section, the important role played by the printed media in covering instances of language activism in South Africa was highlighted. A fair percentage of the overall media coverage of language matters was devoted to this topic. Altogether, out of the total number of 1 424 records that were captured in the database for the year under review, 106 covered language activism. This constitutes 7% of all the records.

Regarding the incidents and events that prompted language activist intervention, two overall tendencies have become clear.

One language activist stream arose in reaction to government-driven (top-down) attempts to introduce dual-medium education into previously Afrikaans-medium institutions. It has been noted that activism for the maintenance of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools and tertiary institutions received prominent media attention during the year under review. Most of the records on instances of

language activism were published in Afrikaans newspapers (55 records). Sixteen English records covered language activism for the maintenance of Afrikaans.

A second language activist stream focused on offering resistance to proposed geographical name changes in South Africa. Records in this regard were published in both Afrikaans (21 records) and English (14 records) newspapers. This type of activism differs from the first type, in that it does not only involve the Afrikaans community. Geographical name changes affect different communities, as is demonstrated by the spread of coverage on this issue.

The relevant coverage reveals that, in general, communities mostly opt for moderate language rights activism in the form of petitions. However, in a few instances, protest marches – a more confrontational form of action – were covered. Communities in South Africa are thus willing to employ different instruments of language activism in order to bring about change in social practices and structures that influence the maintenance and development of languages. However, on the basis of the data presented, a tendency towards sporadic action can be discerned. It is notable that the aggrieved communities did not necessarily follow all initiatives through to their conclusion. A lack of perseverance can be noted in this regard. Further research is required to establish whether the sporadic coverage of language activism is related to a lack of persistence on the part of the communities involved, or whether it could be attributed to a lack of interest on the part of the printed media.

Language activism is an important by-product of a democratic society. In fact, several scholars hold the view that language activism contributes to the process of democratisation. It is therefore important to monitor language activist developments in South Africa. The printed media serve as an important source that contributes to the achievement of this objective.

## 7. Language research

### 7.1. Introduction

This section focuses on research related to language rights, and how this research is reflected in the printed media. Mention is also made of publications relating to the specific field.

### 7.2. Research reflected in the printed media

During 2005, only 8 records pertaining to language research were published in the printed media. Most of these records comprised articles that referred to educational

aspects, for example, the fact that the use of English as the medium of instruction in schools condemns most black pupils to an inferior education. Research found that children taught in their mother tongue performed better than those taught in English (*City Press*, 09/10/2005 and *The Citizen*, 09/11/2005).

Two surveys regarding the status of Afrikaans were also covered. One study, conducted by the Afrikaanse Kultuurvereniging in collaboration with the CSIR, indicated that Afrikaans is more widely used and understood than English (*Burger*, 24/09/2005). The second study, conducted by the “Voortrekkers”, focused on the continued use of Afrikaans as a language in South Africa. The study was carried out amongst Afrikaans youth; and the results reflected a positive attitude towards the use of Afrikaans (*Volksblad*, 05/07/2005, 13/07/2005; *Beeld*, 07/07/2005). As indicated earlier on, this particular research was activist in nature.

Notably, research of a more academic nature did not receive coverage during 2005. Also, research on language rights *per se* was not covered in the media. A brief overview of research on language rights conducted during 2005 is provided below.

### 7.3. Publications

A few publications related to language rights were released during 2005. Information on these publications is provided in the following table:

**7.3.1. International publications**

Author(s)	Title	Publisher	Abstract
Adrey, Jean-Bernard	Minority language rights before and after the 2004 EU enlargement: The Copenhagen criteria in the Baltic states	Journal of Multilingual & Multicultural Development, 2005, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p453-468, 16p	This paper examines the effect of the recent European Union (EU) enlargement on minority language policies in the Baltic states, and in particular in Latvia and Estonia. Focusing on changing language policies in Latvia and Estonia in the post-Soviet era, the paper investigated the issue of whether accession negotiations between these countries and the Commission have resulted in defining new thresholds of minority language protection both domestically and in the EU.
Blommaert, Jan	Situating language rights: English and Swahili in Tanzania revisited	Journal of Sociolinguistics, Aug 2005, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p390-417, 28p	This paper argues for an ethnographic-sociolinguistic approach to the issue of linguistic rights. In much of the literature on linguistic rights, a fundamentally flawed set of assumptions about language and society is being used, leading to assessments of language situations that are empirically not sustainable. An alternative set of assumptions is offered, grounded in ethnography and focused on language use as oriented towards centring institutions that attribute the function and value of indexicalities to linguistic resources. This model is applied to the Tanzanian sociolinguistic situation, where a strong state appeared to be caught between pressures that were both transnational and local. This gave rise to a pattern of distribution of linguistic resources, including English and Swahili, that offered semiotic opportunities to speakers to construct deeply local meanings. The languages were not in themselves agents of inequality, but the way in which they were distributed nationally and in relation to transnational hierarchies is the key to understanding inequality. Discussions of linguistic rights should start from assessments of the real potential and constraints of linguistic resources, not from idealised and static conceptions of language and society and predefined scenarios of their interaction.

## SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2005

Author(s)	Title	Publisher	Abstract
Chan, Phil C. W.	Important decisions of Hong Kong courts in 2002 (Part I): Language rights, foreign offenders' sentencing, and immigration and refugee Laws	Chinese Journal of International Law, 2005, Vol. 4 Issue 1, p219-234, 16p	Discusses the decisions of courts in Hong Kong, China, on some cases in 2002. Application of the right to a fair trial; Sentencing procedures for foreign offenders; Policies on immigration and refugees.
Grin, François	Linguistic human rights as a source of policy guidelines: A critical assessment	Journal of Sociolinguistics, Aug 2005, Vol 9 Issue 3, p448-460, 13p	The linguistic human rights (LHR) perspective, though relevant to the protection and promotion of minority languages (or, more generally, of linguistic diversity), displays one major weakness, namely, its almost exclusive reliance on moral considerations. Although LHR advocates often back up their claims with other (including economic) arguments, the latter often fail to pass hard validation tests. Hence, the actual import of LHR arguments is constrained by the extent to which the underpinning moral considerations are shared by public opinion and politicians. Even if there is broad consensus around values, arguments in favour of minority language rights can be defeated by three types of objections that have to do with feasibility, costs, and burden-sharing. In order to overcome these objections, it is necessary to draw on the tools of policy evaluation, which may provide strong arguments in favour of linguistic diversity.
Gray, Stephen	Language rights: Moving the debate forward	Journal of Sociolinguistics, Aug 2005, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p448-460, 13p	This article provides an overview of the current issues and challenges facing the nascent paradigm of minority language rights (MLR). It focuses on the theoretical points of dispute and tension with respect to MLR, as well as the challenges attendant upon their implementation in complex, multiethnic and multilingual contexts. The article acknowledges, but also responds to, key critiques of MLR to date. These include debates about linguistic modernisation, linguistic identities and essentialism, language and social mobility, and macro- and micro-language practices. In the light of these debates, the article speculates about possible ways forward for the MLR paradigm.

Author(s)	Title	Publisher	Abstract
Patrick, Donna	Language rights in Indigenous communities: The case of the Inuit of Arctic Quebec	Journal of Sociolinguistics, Aug 2005, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p369-389, 21p	Despite the rise of language rights, it is not clear whether the granting of rights to Indigenous and minority groups has any direct effect on the ability of these groups to revitalise and maintain their languages. This paper offers an analysis of macro-level rights discourse in Canada, drawing on certain Supreme Court of Canada decisions regarding Francophone-minority and Aboriginal peoples. It then traces certain consequences of the granting of Indigenous language rights for Indigenous language instruction and maintenance, focusing on the Inuit in the Arctic Qubec region of Nunavik.
Schneider, Britta	Linguistic Human Rights and Migrant Languages: A Comparative Analysis of Migrant Language Education in Great Britain and Germany	Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang; 2005. 130 p	Linguistic scholars as well as international cultural organisations such as UNESCO maintain that the acquisition of reading and writing skills in the mother tongue of a pupil is a basic human right. However, national education systems hardly ever respect such "Linguistic Human Rights". What are today's strategies and aims in language teaching in the UK and Germany? This book analyses migrant language tutoring in two education systems and illustrates the historical and political reasons for monolingual ideology. While nationalism is still a crucial factor in not admitting language rights, the analysis of contemporary language education shows that technical approaches to language and the tendency to structure school systems according to economical principles also negatively influence the approval of language rights.

**Table 2: Summary of international research on language rights**

Four of the 7 international publications were published in the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, while 2 articles were published in other journals. Records were only obtained in respect of one book that was published in 2005 (cf. Schneider, 2005). A notable aspect of these international publications is the focus on linguistic human rights. Two interesting developments regarding this focus deserve attention. On the one hand, the continuing critical debate on the linguistic human rights paradigm features prominently; and on the other hand, the growing interest in language rights associated with the plight of minorities (including the phenomenon of migration) is also noteworthy. Another notable aspect is the clear link between language rights and language policy – also in developing countries.

### 7.3.2. *Publications in South Africa*

Author(s)	Title	Publisher	Abstract
Heugh, Kathleen October, Michelle	Language rights and schools. Education rights for learners, parents and educators	Johannesburg: Wits	No abstract available.
Truter, E.J.J Lubbe, H.J.	Toepassing van taalbeleid in SA: 'n ontleding aan die hand van taalregte klagtes van minderheidsgroepe	Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe; 45(2), 245-263	In this contribution the implementation of the language policy is analysed on the basis of language rights complaints in the printed media and those addressed to PanSALB for the period 1 January to 31 December 2002. The article firstly describes the goals, competences and relevant focus areas of PanSALB. It also describes the possible reasons as to why language rights complaints can occur in the context of the implementation of the language policy. The methodology followed in analysing the language rights complaints is expounded. The data on language rights complaints are divided into two categories: on the one hand, complaints reported in the printed media, and on the other hand, complaints lodged with PanSALB. These categories are further subdivided into two categories, namely language rights incidents, and complainants in respect of language rights. After discussing the consequences/outcomes in this regard, certain deductions are drawn and suggestions made.

Author(s)	Title	Publisher	Abstract
Lubbe, H.J. Truter, E.J.J	Taalregte van minderheids-groep: 'n basiese mensereg	Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe; 45(1), 29-40	Investigates the concepts of "language rights" and "minority languages". Demonstrates how the concepts of linguistic human rights and fundamental human rights have become intertwined.
Van Coller, H.P Steyn, J.C	Taal en taalaktiwisme in 'n tyd van transformasie	Bloemfontein: UV Sasol BiblioteekActa Varia 2005	There is a growing awareness that language activism will be needed to bring about a truly democratic multilingual society. What is quite clear is that a firm resolve is necessary in order to continuously resist the concentrated pressure on Afrikaans-medium schools (and universities) to allow themselves to be Anglicised through first becoming parallel-medium, then dual-medium, and finally English-medium institutions.
Wee, Lionel	Intra-language discrimination and linguistic human rights: The case of Singlish	Applied Linguistics, 2005 Mar; 26 (1): 48-69	The Linguistic Human Rights (LHRs) paradigm is motivated by the desire to combat linguistic discrimination, where speakers of disregarded languages find themselves unable to use their preferred language in society at large. However, in an increasingly globalised world where speakers may feel the need or the desire to travel across state boundaries, the question arises as to the transposability of LHRs. This article first considers the human rights discourse, and shows that problems in this discourse are inherited by and exacerbated in the LHRs paradigm, in no small part because its conception of language draws on an ideology of monolingualism. But since a world of mobile humans is one that is fundamentally plurilingual, it follows that what is needed is a greater emphasis on the notion of a social language, which will provide a more robust understanding of the nature of language, especially in a world where people tend to move around a great deal.

**Table 3: Summary of South African research on language rights**

All of the South African publications dealing with language rights were in the form of journal articles; and two of the five articles were published in the “Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe”. Notably, these two publications were authored by the researchers who were previously involved in the compilation of the SALRM. Their particular contribution also concentrates on language rights in relation to minority language groups, albeit obviously within the South African context. Language rights in South African schools also received attention.

#### 7.4. Conclusion

The foregoing discussion regarding research on language rights reveals that the printed media did not cover research relating to language rights during 2005, despite the fact that coverage was given to other language rights issues. In view of the Afrikaans bias in the coverage of language matters, this is an interesting development. At least two of the South African articles dealt with a very topical issue warranting coverage, namely, language complaints and the position of Afrikaans –an issue which, in fact, usually receives attention in the media.

It is also notable that, in general, the amount of material published in South Africa on language rights during 2005 was minimal, in comparison to the rest of the world. This development is somewhat surprising, given the topicality of the debate on language rights in South Africa, as illustrated in the third section of this report, where media coverage of language matters is discussed.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations

### 8.1. Conclusions

As was the case when the previous monitor reports were compiled, most of the 1 424 language-related records collected for the South African Language Rights Monitor 2005 were obtained from Afrikaans newspapers. Given the ratio of English newspapers to Afrikaans newspapers, namely 5.75: 1, the relative prominence given by Afrikaans newspapers to language matters is quite significant (1,41 Afrikaans records for every 1 English record). Readers of Afrikaans newspapers seem to consistently display a relatively higher degree of interest in language matters than their English counterparts. Coverage of language matters nevertheless seems to have been sustained in all the country’s newspapers at an average of 119 records per month. Almost four records per day dealt with language. The above-average coverage that has been recorded for certain months can be attributed to three of the

most controversial language topics of 2005, namely the changing of geographical names (particularly Afrikaans place names such as Louis Trichardt and Pretoria, and street names in Durban); the perceived threat to the position of Afrikaans at the University of Stellenbosch; and attempts by government to transform single-medium Afrikaans schools into dual-medium (Afrikaans/English) schools (for example, the Laerskool Mikro in the Western Cape and the Kuruman schools in the Northern Cape). In terms of the type of coverage, it has been noted that almost half of the records in the SALRM database for 2005 dealt with language problems, and approximately a third, with name changes. These were the two major issues that captured the attention of readers during that year. Some “good-news” coverage was also given to language-promotional issues.

Just over a third of the records pertaining to language problems dealt with language rights. Except in the case of December, there was a relatively even spread of coverage of language rights issues throughout the year.

Although the majority of records on language rights incidents pertain to Afrikaans, some records also focused on English and African languages. These records mostly had a bearing on the language situation in schools and higher educational institutions. In this regard, in particular, the linguistic human right to mother-tongue education (during the early years) and the (South African) language right to education in the official language of one’s choice, came into play. These issues came to the fore in relation to the general (South African) right of access to education. Interesting questions came under the spotlight in the ensuing debate with regard to the legitimacy of maintaining single-medium Afrikaans schools within a changing societal context in which a desperate need for access to education features quite prominently. These issues were emphasised in the court cases that followed departmental intervention regarding the admission of English learners to some of these schools. It is interesting to note that both the Laerskool Mikro in the Western Cape, and the Kalahari Hoërskool and Hoër Landbouskool in Kuruman, opted for litigation to defend their cause against this intervention. The mixed outcomes of the two cases raise further questions regarding language rights in education and the role of language policy. Particularly noteworthy is the ruling in the case of the Northern Cape schools, regarding the existence of a concrete language policy document as a basis for the claiming (or denial) of certain language rights. On the other hand, the ruling in the Western Cape case seems to suggest that the right to access may be limited under certain circumstances, and that language may be applied as one of the limiting factors. Further litigation regarding this matter might be required. Coverage of the Hoërskool Pretoria Noord’s case

against the education authorities raised questions regarding the obligation of the state to provide resources, in cases where it has intervened by enrolling learners who opt for a language medium that is not offered by a particular school. Apart from the option of litigation, the aggrieved parties in the above instances also availed themselves of other instruments of language activism, i.e. mobilisation and demonstration.

PanSALB's intervention in the Northern Cape case was noteworthy; and the publicity that was received by the Board in relation to this matter was positive. However, opportunities for follow-up involvement were not utilised (or did not receive coverage).

Language rights at tertiary institutions also drew considerable publicity. Again, the medium of education was at stake; and again, questions arose regarding the position of Afrikaans as the (preferred) medium of education at former single-medium universities. The case of the University of Stellenbosch, where a dual-medium option (the so-called "T-option") was instituted in the Faculty of Humanities as an alternative to the "A-option" (the Afrikaans-only option) for students who preferred English-medium education, received the greatest amount of coverage. However, the introduction of an English-medium option at post-graduate level at the University of the Free State, and also in certain modules at the University of Pretoria and the Potchefstroom Agricultural College, also drew media attention. The intervention by the MEC of the North West Province in respect of the latter, is noteworthy. In all these cases, the aggrieved parties embarked upon moderate language activist initiatives.

The right to the use of a language of one's choice in court also received publicity, and also featured in court cases under revision. In particular, the language policy in the judicial system drew media attention during 2005. The dilemma faced by black judges preparing a case on the basis of Afrikaans documents, and the favourable influence of English statements on the outcome of court cases, sparked a debate regarding the language-of-record issue. Although some voices are being raised in favour of English as the language of record, the matter remains complicated, and no clear-cut solutions seem to exist. This is illustrated by the Xhosa case discussed above, which highlights the fact that the right to use other official languages in court may not be limited. Apart from the language-policy-in-court debate, the right to a fair trial in a language that is understood by the accused underscores the centrality of this basic linguistic human right in the whole debate. PanSALB's public absence in these debates is noteworthy.

The usual problems regarding the language policy practices of the state received media attention, and also featured in language complaints lodged with PanSALB. Some of the culprits whose tendency to favour English in official business received media attention during 2005 included the SAPS in the Western Cape and the Gauteng Department of Social Development. In the latter case, specific attention was accorded to PanSALB's finding on the matter. Other institutions also featured in the section of the Monitor discussing complaints lodged with PanSALB. It remains disturbing that the state seems determined to persist in its attempts to favour English as its preferred medium. However, it is interesting that aggrieved parties do not tend to avail themselves of other instruments of language activism in these instances. There seems to be greater concern regarding linguistic human rights issues (such as the medium-of-instruction issue) than regarding civil language rights issues (such as the right to at least two official languages, etc.). Aggrieved parties seem to be more prone to take action in the case of the first category, and also seem to be more prepared to utilise a variety of instruments of language activism. The same phenomenon is not observed in the case of the second category; and a lack of persistency can often be detected in relation to this category (in comparison to the former category).

A matter of concern regarding PanSALB's handling of certain language complaints is a possible lack of pro-active intervention. An important finding of this report (SALRM, 2005) is that PanSALB is processing language complaints much faster, and that cases are also concluded within a more reasonable time-frame. This is to be commended. However, speedy finalisation should not be the driving force behind the processing of these complaints, but rather the quest for satisfactory and meaningful findings. In this Monitor, instances have been mentioned in which further action on the part of PanSALB was required, but did not materialise. It appears that PanSALB does not always carry out its mandate to the full, in this regard.

Some of the findings in SALRM 2005 point to increasing language activism regarding language rights issues, but also regarding other issues, such as geographical names. It is quite significant that aggrieved communities are prepared to mobilise themselves in order to object to proposed changes to place names and street names, to the extent that has been indicated above. Although these particular instances of language activism might be interpreted in some quarters as evidence of resistance to change or transformation, they could also be regarded as indications of a vibrant democracy. It is not uncommon in other multilingual societies to find similar cases of language activism where geographical names are concerned. The cases discussed above may also point to certain shortcomings in South Africa's

policy on geographical names. A notable shortcoming is the continuation of our monolingual geographical names legacy. It is quite common to encounter a policy and practice of bilingual (or trilingual) names, or even double names, in other multilingual democracies, such as Canada, Spain, Belgium, the UK, Ireland, Austria, etc., as well as in Australia. These policies were developed as a compromise, within a context of conflicting ideologies, claims, and the politics of recognition. In most cases, the motivation is to create a win-win situation. The apartheid legacy, which is now inadvertently being continued, comprises a typical “winner-takes-all” situation. Geographical names were used in the past as public signals of dominance, transformation, power, etc. It is thus disturbing to note similar tendencies within our young democracy concerning the new naming policies. In the light of the foregoing, the instances of language activism could be used as a basis to explore shortcomings in the current policy on geographical names.

Finally, it has been noted that research on language rights issues is lacking within the South African context.

## 8.2. Recommendations

Recommendations arising from the SALRM 2005 report are briefly listed below. These recommendations are made in terms of the major sections of this report.

### **8.2.1. *Media coverage of language issues:***

With regard to media coverage of language issues, we recommend that PanSALB should:

1. Take note of the importance of coverage of language issues in general, as one of a variety of mechanisms that make it possible to remain abreast of language developments in the country. However, obviously other avenues should also be explored.
2. Take note of positive printed media coverage on PanSALB’s involvement in language issues during 2005; but also continue to explore ways and means of ensuring a more consistent public profile.
3. Consider holding a series of public hearings on the burning issues relating to language, involving the relevant role-players. The outcome of these hearings could be collated in the form of reports; and specialists could add critical comments and recommendations. These issues include the following:
  - a. Single-medium schools, multilingualism and the challenge of access
  - b. South African universities – bilingual/trilingual or monolingual?

- c. Language in court – privileges, practicalities, rights
  - d. Geographical names – monolingual or multilingual?
  - e. Languages on the air – “free speak” or censored?
4. Consider holding a series of countrywide workshops on the following topics, involving specialists in the field, as well as decision-makers at the three different levels of government. The outcome of these workshops could be collated in the form of reports; and specialists could add critical comments and recommendations:
    - a. Increasing prestige for the indigenous languages – what approaches could be effective?
    - b. Language visibility as language policy in practice
    - c. Language purism and language vitality.
  5. Consider initiating or commissioning further research into the following problematic areas:
    - a. The relation between language problems and performance at school
    - b. The quest for standardisation of language testing at universities
    - c. The impact of SMS jargon on language development
    - d. Language-promotional projects in South Africa (in terms of a survey).
  6. Build on the information regarding language promotion for the indigenous languages, as contained in this report, by means of the following:
    - a. Special features in the PanSALB newsletter or on its webpage
    - b. More award categories at the annual award ceremony.

### **8.2.3. *Language complaints lodged with official bodies:***

With regard to language complaints lodged with official bodies, we recommend that PanSALB should:

7. Take note of language-related complaints lodged with other statutory bodies and consider entering into further liaisons with these bodies, if necessary.
8. Consider instituting a computerised language complaints database that would allow quick and effective access to information, as well as enhance the document flow during processing.

9. Revise the current system to allow for responses or feedback from complainants with regard to the eventual outcome of their complaints.
10. Ensure that more speakers benefit from the outcomes of complaints that are successfully resolved.

### **8.2.3. *Language litigation:***

With regard to language litigation, we recommend that PanSALB should:

11. Take note of the cases of language litigation discussed in this report.
12. Furthermore, study the cases intensively with a view to formulating legal opinions aimed at the legal fraternity, in cases where the rulings seem to raise further issues.
13. Conduct further research into the validity of the ruling in the Northern Cape case, namely that the absence of a written language policy constitutes a criterion in determining whether a language right is to be exercised or denied.

### **8.2.4. *Language activism:***

With regard to language activism, we recommend that PanSALB should:

14. Take note of the cases of language activism covered in the printed media.
15. Consider appropriate means of promoting PanSALB's mandate regarding mediation more widely, and in new ways.

### **8.2.5. *Language research:***

With regard to language research, we recommend that PanSALB should:

16. Take note of the coverage bias regarding research noted in this report, as well as the lack of research on language rights in South Africa.
17. Consider playing an even more prominent role in promoting innovative research on language rights, focusing on a wider spectrum of problems and challenges.

AS AN OVERALL RECOMMENDATION, WE SUGGEST THAT:

18. PanSALB should consider the following, if approved:
  - a. A presentation on the core findings of this report, to be delivered by the authors of the report during a future Board meeting
  - b. The publication of this report as an official PanSALB publication

- c. The further dissemination of the contents of this SALRM to a wider audience in a variety of appropriate ways.

## 9. Bibliography

- DU PLESSIS, T. 2004. Afrikaans en taalaktiwisme. In: Van Rensburg, F.I.J. (red.). *Afrikaans – lewende taal van miljoene*. Pretoria: Van Schaik, 169-182.
- DEL VALLE, S. 2003. *Language Rights and the Law in the United States – Finding our Voices*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Ltd.
- MARTEL, A. 1999. Heroes, rebels, communities and states in language activism and litigation. In: Kontra, M., Phillipson, R., Skutnabb-Kangas, T. & Varady, T. (Eds). *Language: A right and a resource*. Budapest: Central European University Press, 47-80.
- PANSALB, 2004/2005. *Pan South African Language Board – Annual Report 2004/2005*. Arcadia: Pretoria.
- SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2002 (SALRM 2002). 2004. Final Report on the First South African Language Rights Monitor Project, 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2002. Bloemfontein: Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment.
- SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2003 (SALRM 2003). 2005. Final Report on the Second South African Language Rights Project, 1 January 2003 – 31 December 2003. Bloemfontein: Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment.
- SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS MONITOR 2003 (SALRM 2004). 2005. Final Report on the Third South African Language Rights Project, 1 January 2004 – 31 December 2004. Bloemfontein: Unit for Language Management.

The South African Language Rights Monitor (SALRM) Project surveys the mainstream newspapers of South Africa with a view to compile annual reports on the developments on the language front in the country. While the main focus is on language rights and language (rights) activism, the yearly Monitor also covers other language-related problems, including name changes, as well as aspects of language promotion.

For anybody interested in subjects ranging from the (proposed) renaming of Bloemfontein, Louis Trichardt, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg International Airport to the incident of Johann Rupert withdrawing his advertisements from a British magazine, and from the saga on mother-tongue education at schools to the language policy in the judicial system and the success of the South African films *Yesterday* and *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*, the SALRM 2005 provides a rich source of information.

The SALRM Project is housed in the Department of Language Management and Language Practice at the University of the Free State.