

Exploring reading in an African language

Can a reading culture bring linguistic survival?

Sandra Land

University of KZN South Africa



Uvutha bhe umkhankaso ngozothatha isikhundla uma sekuphuma uButhelezi

IKHASI 3



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voda

Circulation figures show that Zulu newspaper reading fluctuates, but Zulu newspapers are surviving

Ukufunda Nokubhala



896. KwaZaca – At Zaca's house

1 Okulandelayo ohlwini lwemisebenzi kaMkhize umuzi kaZaca.



Next on the list of Mkhize's jobs was Zaca's house. Mkhize asked "What can I fix for you?"

2 UNk Zaca waxwayisa uMkhize ngemisebenzi emlindlele ngaphakathi.



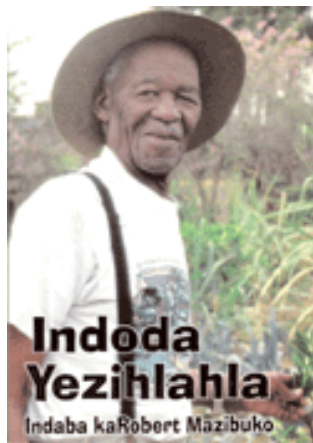
Mrs Zaca warned Mkhize about all the jobs waiting for him inside. "You've never seen anything like this!" she said.

3 Kanti uNk Zaca ubeqinisele.



And she was right.

Easy to read Zulu books



New Readers' Project at UKZN produces books in all eleven official languages

Policies and support

- The South African Constitution
- The establishment of the Pan South African Language Board
- The establishment of organisations meant to promote reading, such as the Book Development Council of SA

Example of Zulu text:

Abafundi bangakubuza ukuthi bazoyithola yini imisebenzi uma sebekwazi ukufunda nokubhala. Iqiniso elimsulwa elokuthi ukufunda nokubhala ngeke kubatholise umsebenzi kodwa kungabalekelela ekutholeni umsebenzi. Lokhu kusho ukuthi bangangena esikhundleni somsebenzi esidinga ikhono lokufunda nokubhala, futhi umuntu ongakwazi ukubona umsebenzi nasephephandabeni ungafaka isicelo. Nawe thisha uyazi ukuthi kunabantu abaningi kabi abaqedile ukufunda kodwa abangasebenzi.

They have not yet been employed

Abakaqashwi

Abakaqashwi

Akakaqashwi

	E fix	Z fix	E regr	Z regr	E span	Z span	E fix dur	Z fix dur	E grad	Z grad	E wpm	Z wpm
Zam	182	151	23	16	.55	.67	.29	.37	2.1	2.6	113	109
Emm	201	260	22	46	.50	.38	.24	.26	2.1	1.3	125	111
No M	166	123	32	23	.66	.81	.22	.22	3.6	7.7	167	222
Sim	159	108	34	22	.63	.93	.30	.36	2.6	5.5	128	154
Mag	151	129	23	12	.66	.78	.35	.36	2.6	4	113	130
Jab	441	376	141	118	.20	.27	.11	.12	1	1	125	130
Nok	110	69	13	2	.91	1.45	.25	.25	9.2	14.7	214	353
Zan	162	103	33	22	.62	.97	.22	.25	3.4		203	225
Taa (P)	150	188	19	52	.67	.53	.25	.24	4.2		165	133
Jan (E)	60	105	7	12	1.67	.95	.22	.25	15.5		449	254
Non	122	105	16	20	.82	.95	.23	.25	7.5		212	230
Zama	207	164	49	40	.48	.67	.30	.31	1.3		108	132
Skhu	177	198	37	51	.56	.51	.25	.25	2.4		136	118







A new great South African divide

