

# **CONFERENCE ON THE ACQUISITION OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH 21- 22 JANUARY 2008**

## **1. Background**

For the past two years a small group of linguists working on Child Language Development with respect to African Languages has had small informal meetings at Smith College, Northampton, immediately after the Annual Boston University Conference on Child Language Development. Colleagues would present papers and discuss collaboration on projects and a way forward. During the last meeting, it was decided that a conference be held in Africa in 2008.

The reason for focusing on African Languages is that there is a lack of linguistically appropriate norms of speech and language development for the speakers of most languages in South Africa aside from English and Afrikaans. Language specific normative data is critical to people in applied fields, particularly to teachers of young children who speak these languages, to speech pathologists, faculty and students. Language specific normative data facilitates the foundation for the valid differentiation between true speech-language pathology and speech- language difference.

In education such norms of speech and language development would make it possible for educators to be able to make early identification and possibly prevent speech, language and academic problems. The norms would also allow researchers to develop remedial programmes for children at an early age before they develop serious problems at school. Without such norms, lack of diagnosis and treatment, misdiagnosis, or even unnecessary or inappropriate treatment would be likely. Recent research has pointed to the inadequacy of translation of assessment materials and remedial interventions from other languages.

## **2. The Stellenbosch 2008 Conference**

The Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Smith College, Northampton, USA, will host a special two-day conference on the Acquisition of African Languages, with special interest in the indigenous national languages of South Africa. We expect an audience of linguists, psychologists, speech pathologists and therapists as well as educators of young children.

What makes the Stellenbosch 2008 Conference more important is that it is the first conference of its kind to be hosted in Africa.

## **3. Programme**

Fourteen presentations have been accepted by the programme committee and they are working on finalizing two plenary addresses and organizing the final programme.

The first day will be a full day of papers from linguists, psychologists or speech pathologists working on language acquisition in the various African Languages. This would allow each researcher to see parallels and differences across the different languages, exchange ideas and make theoretical progress.

Then the second day will broaden out to discuss the issue of assessment of language development, via developing norms from spontaneous speech, devising elicitation protocols to look at key features, or sharing existing texts that could be modified for African Languages. It will also address intervention techniques with children who are bilingual or speakers of African Languages. A larger framework will also be created for discussing research proposals that might emerge, possible collaborations, student projects and so forth. There will be a few papers on applied work with children in this second day that might seed the discussions.

#### **4. Organisers**

This Conference is organised by the Department of African Languages of the University Stellenbosch in collaboration with UCT and Smith College. The contact persons are:

Marianna Visser:                      University of Stellenbosch  
021 – 808 2106  
[mwv@sun.ac.za](mailto:mwv@sun.ac.za)

Sandile Gxilishe:                      University of Cape Town  
021 – 650 2305/2301  
[Sandile.gxilishe@uct.ac.za](mailto:Sandile.gxilishe@uct.ac.za)

Jill and Peter de Villiers:            Smith College  
001 413 585 3907  
[jdevilli@email.smith.edu](mailto:jdevilli@email.smith.edu)

Maggie Tshule:                        University of the Witwatersrand  
083 675 3565  
[Maggie@netactive.co.za](mailto:Maggie@netactive.co.za)

**CONFERENCE ON ACQUISITION OF AFRICAN  
LANGUAGES**

Presented by the Department of African Languages, University of Stellenbosch,  
Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602, South Africa  
Tel: (+27) 21 - 808 2106  
Fax: (+27) 21 - 808 2171

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Full names: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE DETAILS**

Registration Fees for South Africans and SADEC countries:

Early Registration: R450

Late Registration: R500

Registration Fees for other Countries: US \$65

**Social events:**

21 January 2008 at 19:00  
Coctail at Lanzerac Hotel R120.00

22 January 2008 at 19:00  
Food and Wine Pairing Dinner  
at Neetlingshof Wine Estate R280.00

## **PAYMENT DETAILS**

Choose one of the following options by making a X in the relevant box.

Please note: No registration will be officially confirmed until payment is received. We take no responsibility if cheques got lost in the mail.

### **Bank details for South Africa residents only:**

Draft of cheque: to be made to: The University of Stellenbosch

<b>Bank:</b>	Standard Bank 20 Bird Street Stellenbosch
<b>Branch code:</b>	050610
<b>Account no:</b>	073 006 955
<b>Swift code:</b>	SBZAZAJJ
<b>Reference no:</b>	<b>R1208</b>

### **Bank details for residents outside South Africa:**

Draft of cheque: to be made to: The University of Stellenbosch

<b>Bank:</b>	First National Bank 240 Main Street Newlands 7700
<b>Branch code:</b>	204 109
<b>Account no:</b>	621 0717 7083
<b>Swift code:</b>	FIRNZAJJ796
<b>Reference no:</b>	<b>R1208</b>

Please send the Bank Draft slips to: Conference Coordinator, Department of African Languages, University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602, South Africa

Or fax it to (+27) 21-808 2171

Per Cheque: Please make the cheque out to: UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH  
Mail the cheque, together with your forms to: Conference Coordinator, Department of African Languages, University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602, South Africa

## **OFFICIAL NAME BADGE**

*Please provide the information that you would like to be printed your name badge.*

Full Name (including title): \_\_\_\_\_

Institution / Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

# ACCOMMODATION FORM

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Full names: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## ACCOMMODATION

*Accommodation is available in (a) the hostels of the University of Stellenbosch or (b) Guesthouses near the Conference venue. Please choose an option by indicating with a X in the box:*

HOSTELS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH

There is accommodation available in University residences at a rate of R200 per person per night, including breakfast (R120 for students). Please contact Mrs Surena du Plessis at [sjdp@sun.ac.za](mailto:sjdp@sun.ac.za) in this regard. All are single rooms with shared bathrooms

*You will be notified in which hostel you will be accommodated. Payment for hostels must be done before the Conference starts on 21 January 2008.*

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days in hostel: \_\_\_\_\_ @ R120/R200 per day = \_\_\_\_\_

## GUESTHOUSES

*If you choose this option, please phone the guesthouse directly and make your own accommodation arrangements. Please follow this link for a list of guesthouses listed on the website of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Intercultural Communication and Pragmatics: <http://academic.sun.ac.za/iccling/>*

**TOTAL PAYMENT**

Registration fee: R\_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation fee:  
(only if you choose a hostel) R\_\_\_\_\_

21 January 2008  
Cocktail at Lanzerac Hotel R\_\_\_\_\_

22 January 2008  
Food and Wine pairing dinner  
Neetlingshof Wine Estate R\_\_\_\_\_

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:** I have the following dietary restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT** R\_\_\_\_\_

**(included)**

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Transport between Cape Town International airport and Stellenbsoch, and between Stellenbosch and the conference venue, may be arranged by contacting [minnaartours@yahoo.com](mailto:minnaartours@yahoo.com).

**PRESENTATION INFORMATION**

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Full names: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of paper: \_\_\_\_\_

I will need a OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

SLIDE PROJECTOR

DATAPROJECTOR  
(for PowerPoint presentations)

VIDEO MACHINE

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I shall attend the Conference:            YES                                                             NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**