

LEXICOGRAPHICAL WORK IN PROGRESS

By Dr. K.B KIINGI

Having successfully completed the pilot phase in the Makerere Institute of Language Dictionary Project, we eventually entered the implementation one in mid-October 2002. Scarcely had the final-run defining and editing work become a matter of routine did the Project undergo throes of survival. At the behest of its funder I@mak.com the Project was reconstituted as two projects, *vis* the Luganda and Runyankore Dictionary Projects. Since then my responsibility for the original Project encompassing both languages ceased and I have had to redirect my attention exclusively to Luganda dictionary compilation. I am immensely delighted to collaborate with Messrs. Kiriggwajjo Anatole Jjesero, Deo Kawalya, Deo Kasirivu and Ibrahim Ssentongo who constitute a cohesive and resourceful team in the editorial process.

In the course of the entire Project and especially so in the editorial phase, our Style Manual for Luganda Dictionaries has been steadily assuming its final form against the background of proportionate experience. We are now fully conscious of the issues on which we diverge from long –established practices of pioneer lexicographers in Uganda and in sub –Saharan Africa at large: the missionaries. We believe, for instance, that our mode of choosing citation forms and our massively enriched dictionary article format do justice to the Luganda speaker as the prospective primary user of the dictionary.

On the capacity building front significant successes are registrable. Firstly, a substantial reservoir of definers has been created through training. Secondly, two useful extended essays in the BA Programme have been written by Mr Deo Kasirivu (on syntactic information in a Luganda dictionary) and Mr Deo Kawalya (a Luganda cultural dictionary based on thematic principles (in progress)). At the MA level two researchers are finalising their theses. Ms Minah Nabirye is writing a monolingual Lusoga dictionary while Ms Lydia L. Namatende is investigating usage labelling in English dictionaries.

Finally, the academic community may realistically await the completion of two PhD theses, which spring from the Project. Mr Celestino Oriikiriza's prospective doctoral thesis treats studies in Bantu lexicography. A full monolingual Luganda dictionary based on conceptual principles is in the very ambit of Mr. K. Jjesero's doctoral effort.

To conclude this short report on lexicographical work being conducted in the Institute, I would like to contend that no heavy external funding in the planning and writing phases is needed. Mr Kawalya's and Ms. Nabirye's research undertakings cogently evidence this. All that is needed is to anchor dictionary compilation in a broad programme of teaching and research. Such a programme

and others in pure and applied linguistics are bound to earn the Institute international recognition.