



## **Masisebenzise iilwimi zethu!**

### **Gebruik ons taalhulpbronne!**

### **Make use of our language resources!**

Featuring isiXhosa, Afrikaans and English

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To the South African teacher...

South African classrooms – as indeed, classrooms everywhere - are characterised by multilingualism. Whether you are a bilingual person who uses more than one language in daily life, or a monolingual who is learning another language, you can deploy strategies in your classroom which engage the linguistic resources of your learners to great effect.

Here follow brief descriptions of some activities which have been shown to be enabling of learners' meaning-making in multilingual high school classrooms. In technical terms they could be described as 'translanguaging activities'. Could you try them in your classroom?

1. Molweni! Ninjani? (Hello, how are you all?)

Perform classroom social activities in a language other than English. Greetings and instructions are great concrete ways for you and your learners to learn language.

2. Multilingual glossaries (Veeltalige woordelyse)

Pick out some key concepts in your subject area and make multilingual glossaries to display prominently during a lesson on that topic. You can make these more durable by making a poster to display permanently as word walls. Here is a link to a multilingual glossary site for use in South African education: <http://oertb.tlterm.com>. But don't forget the resource of your learners to help you.

3. Kan jy dit anders sé/skryf? (Can you say it/write it another way?)

Ask learners to re-tell an explanation, a story, a procedure or a definition in another language. This could be done informally in pairs or publicly in front of the class. It can also be done in writing.



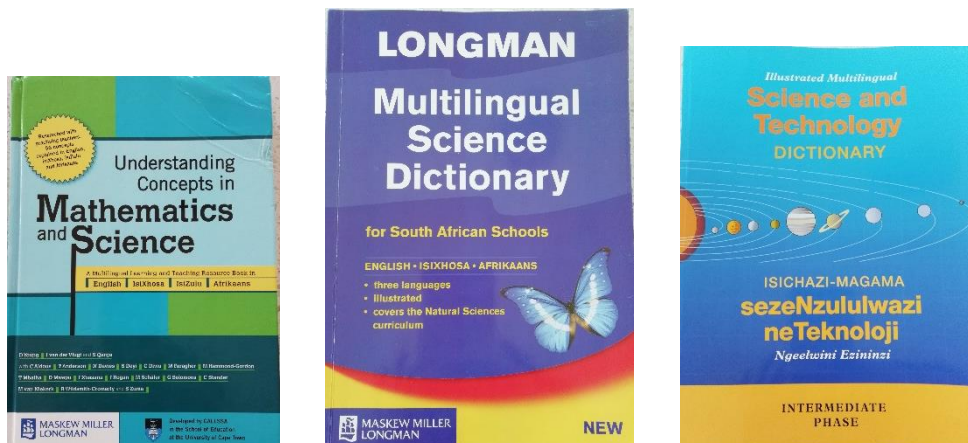
4. Thetha ngeelwimi (Speak about languages)

Take any opportunity to talk critically about language. How do your learners feel about writing in a language other than English in History, Geography, Business Studies or Physical Science? Why? Talking about how every language employs borrowing from others is also fruitful. 'Scientific English', for example, borrows from Greek and Latin.

5. Vertalings (linguqulelo)

English is almost uniformly the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) in our high schools. Instead of translating from English for understanding, try giving your learners a text in another language and getting them to make a translation from this language into English. This adds status to African languages which are not often seen in print in academic texts. It also unleashes a wonderful cacophony of arguments about which is the best translation! This is a good way for learners to grapple with concepts.

Here are some multilingual reference books which have been made specifically for schools:



Have fun with translanguaging in your classroom!

