

situation asks for translators to have an encyclopedic knowledge of various specialized fields or else have the necessary resources to gain such knowledge when the need arises [5].

As Pym states the specialization in translation market implies that “a good translator is not someone who knows many things but someone who has the skills and contacts to find specific information when necessary”. The key to success in the present translation market, thus, can be said to lie in being resourceful and the Web seems to have a lot to offer to translators from this perspective. The World Wide Web in fact can be considered as an invaluable resource for translators in that it not only contains a vast amount of linguistic information about various languages and text types, but also provides translators with a channel to communicate with fellow translators, subject matter experts and above all the clients.

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The notion of the Afrikaans language

The article deals with the origin of the Afrikaans language. Afrikaans is a West Germanic language. It has adopted many words from other languages.

Keywords: language, Africa, Afrikaans, grammar, vocabulary

В статье рассматривается происхождение языка африкаанс. Африкаанс – западногерманский язык, много заимствовавший из других языков

Ключевые слова: язык, Африка, африкаанс, грамматика, лексика

Afrikaans is a West Germanic language spoken in South Africa, Namibia and, to a lesser extent, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It evolved from the Dutch vernacular of South Holland (Hollandic dialect) spoken by the mainly Dutch settlers of what is now South Africa, where it gradually began to develop distinguishing characteristics in the course of the 18th century.^[11] Hence, it is a daughter language of Dutch, and was previously referred to as "Cape Dutch" (a term also used to refer collectively to the early Cape settlers) or "kitchen Dutch" (a derogatory term used to refer to Afrikaans in its earlier days). Although, it is variously described as a *creole*, a partially creolised language the least. The term is ultimately derived from Dutch *Afrikaans-Hollands* meaning "African Dutch". It is the first language of most of the Afrikaner and Coloured people of Southern Africa [4, 87].

Although Afrikaans has adopted words from other languages, including Portuguese, the Bantu languages, Malay, German and the Khoisan languages, an estimated 90 to 95% of Afrikaans vocabulary is of Dutch origin. Therefore, differences with Dutch often lie in the more analytic morphology and grammar of Afrikaans, and a spelling that expresses Afrikaans pronunciation rather than standard Dutch. There is a large degree of mutual intelligibility between the two languages – especially in written form.

With about 7 million native speakers in South Africa, or 13.5% of the population, it is the third-most-spoken language in the country. It has the widest geographical and racial distribution of all the eleven official languages of South Africa, and is widely spoken and understood as a second or third language. It is the majority language of the western half of South Africa – the provinces of the Northern Cape and Western Cape – and the first language of 75.8% of Coloured South Africans (3.4 million people), 60.8% of White South Africans (2.7 million) and at 4.6% the second most spoken first-language among Asian South Africans (58,000). About 1.5% of black South Africans (600,000 people) speak it as their first language. Large numbers of speakers of Bantu languages and English-speaking South Africans also speak it as their second language. It is taught in schools, with about 10.3 million second-language students [1, 45].

In neighbouring Namibia, Afrikaans is widely spoken as a second language and used as a *lingua franca*, while as a native language it is spoken in 10.4% of households, mainly concentrated in the capital Windhoek and the southern regions of Hardap and Karas. It, along with German, was among the official languages of Namibia until the country became independent in 1990, 25% of the population of Windhoek spoke Afrikaans at home. Estimates of the total number of Afrikaans speakers range between 15 and 23 million [3, 111].

The Afrikaans language arose in the Dutch Cape Colony, through a gradual divergence from European Dutch dialects, during the course of the 18th century. As

early as the mid-18th century and as recently as the mid-20th century, Afrikaans was known in standard Dutch as a "kitchen language" (Afrikaans: *kombuistaal*), lacking the prestige accorded, for example, even by the educational system in Africa, to languages spoken outside Africa; other early epithets setting apart *Kaaps Hollands* ("Cape Dutch", i.e. Afrikaans) as putatively beneath official Dutch standards included *geradbraakt*, *gebroken* and *onbeschaafd Hollands* ("mutilated/broken/uncivilised Dutch"), as well as *verkeerd Nederlands* ("incorrect Dutch"). An estimated 90 to 95% of Afrikaans vocabulary is ultimately of Dutch origin, and there are few lexical differences between the two languages; however, Afrikaans has a considerably more regular morphology, grammar, and spelling. There is a degree of mutual intelligibility between the two languages, particularly in written form.

Afrikaans acquired some lexical and syntactical borrowings from other languages such as Malay, Khoisan languages, Portuguese, and of the Bantu languages, and Afrikaans has also been significantly influenced by South African English. Nevertheless, Dutch speakers are confronted with fewer non-cognates when listening to Afrikaans than the other way round. Mutual intelligibility thus tends to be asymmetrical, as it is easier for Dutch speakers to understand Afrikaans than for Afrikaans speakers to understand Dutch [2, 101]. In general, mutual intelligibility between Dutch and Afrikaans is better than between Dutch and Frisian or between Danish and Swedish. The South African poet writer Breyten Breytenbach, attempting to visualize the language distance for anglophones once remarked that the differences between (Standard) Dutch and Afrikaans are comparable to those between the Received Pronunciation and Southern American English.

Afrikaans was considered a Dutch dialect in South Africa until the early 20th century, when it became recognised as a distinct language under South African law, alongside Standard Dutch, which it eventually replaced as an official language.

The linguist Paul Roberge suggested the earliest 'truly Afrikaans' texts are doggerel verse from 1795 and a dialogue transcribed by a Dutch traveler in 1825. Printed material among the Afrikaners at first used only standard European Dutch. By the mid-19th century, more and more were appearing in Afrikaans, which was very much still regarded as a set of regional dialects [5, 9].

Some state that instead of *Afrikaners*, which refers to an ethnic group, the terms *Afrikaanses* or *Afrikaanssprekendes* (lit. Afrikaans speakers) should be used for people of any ethnic origin who speak Afrikaans. Linguistic identity has not yet established which terms shall prevail, and all three are used in common parlance. The white Afrikaans-speaking community started being referred to colloquially as "The Boere".

Afrikaans is also widely spoken in Namibia. Before independence, Afrikaans had equal status with German as an official language. Since independence in 1990,

Afrikaans has had constitutional recognition as a national, but not official, language. There is a much smaller number of Afrikaans speakers among Zimbabwe's white minority, as most have left the country since 1980. Afrikaans was also a medium of instruction for schools in Bophuthatswana, an Apartheid-era Bantustan.

Many South Africans living and working in Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and Kuwait are also Afrikaans-speaking [1, 111].

Afrikaans has been influential in the development of South African English. Many Afrikaans loanwords have found their way into South African English, such as *bakkie* ("truck"), *braai* ("barbecue"), *naartjie* ("tangerine"), *tekkies* (American "sneakers", British "trainers", Canadian "runners"). A few words in standard English are derived from Afrikaans, such as *aardvark* (lit. "earth pig"), *trek* ("pioneering journey", in Afrikaans lit. "pull" but used also for "migrate"), *spoor* ("animal track"), *veld* ("Southern African grassland" in Afrikaans, lit. "field"), *commando* from Afrikaans *kommando* meaning small fighting unit, *boomslang* ("tree snake") and *apartheid* ("segregation"; more accurately "apartness" or "the state or condition of being apart").

Under South Africa's Constitution of 1996, Afrikaans remains an official language, and has equal status to English and nine other languages. The new policy means that the use of Afrikaans is now often reduced in favour of English, or to accommodate the other official languages. In 1996, for example, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reduced the amount of television airtime in Afrikaans, while South African Airways dropped its Afrikaans name *Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens* from its livery. Similarly, South Africa's diplomatic missions overseas now only display the name of the country in English and their host country's language, and not in Afrikaans [4, 144].

Modern Dutch and Afrikaans share over 90 percent of their vocabulary. Afrikaans speakers are able to learn Dutch within a comparatively short time. Native Dutch speakers pick up written Afrikaans even more quickly, due to its simplified grammar, whereas understanding spoken Afrikaans might need more effort. Afrikaans speakers can learn Dutch pronunciation with little training. This has enabled Dutch and Belgian companies to outsource their call centre operations to South Africa.

A particular feature of Afrikaans is its use of the double negative; it is classified in Afrikaans as *ontkennende vorm* and is something that is absent from the other West Germanic standard languages [3, 114]. For example,

Afrikaans: *Hy kan **nie** Afrikaans praat **nie***, lit. 'He can not Afrikaans speak not'.

Dutch: *Hij spreekt **geen** Afrikaans.* / Dutch: *Hij kan **geen** Afrikaans praten.*

English: He speaks *no* Afrikaans. / He can *not* speak Afrikaans. / He *can't* speak Afrikaans.

German: *Er spricht **kein** Afrikaans.*

French: *Il **ne** parle **pas** Afrikaans.*

Both French and San origins have been suggested for double negation in Afrikaans. While double negation is still found in Low Franconian dialects in West-Flanders and in some "isolated" villages in the centre of the Netherlands (such as Garderen), it takes a different form, which is not found in Afrikaans. The following is an example:

Afrikaans: *Ek wil dit **nie** doen **nie**.* * (lit. I want this not do not.)

Dutch: *Ik wil dit **niet** doen.*

English: I do not want to do this.

German: *Ich will dies **nicht** tun.*

Compare with *Ek wil **nie** dit doen **nie***, which changes the meaning to "I want not to do this." Whereas *Ek wil **nie** dit doen **nie*** emphasizes a lack of desire to act, *Ek wil dit **nie** doen **nie*** emphasizes the act itself [3, 98].

The *-ne* was the Middle Dutch way to negate but it has been suggested that since *-ne* became highly non-voiced, ***nie*** or ***niet*** was needed to complement the *-ne*. With time the *-ne* disappeared in most Dutch dialects.

Summing up of all what has just been said we can conclude that an analytic language is a language that conveys grammatical relationships without using inflectional morphemes. A grammatical construction can similarly be called analytical if it uses unbound morphemes, which are separate words, and/or word order. Analytical languages are in contrast to synthetic languages. Likewise, a language is said to be 'analytic' if analytic constructions are the predominant way of indicating grammatical relationships.

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