Language is not a barrier: Training multilingual health practitioners in South Africa

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Introduction

+ In multilingual settings language is seen as a barrier
+ In healthcare, there are many barriers, language is one of those barriers
+ Many approaches have been proposed to facilitate learning
  + Memorization - “learning by heart”
  + Etymology/ Historical - explaining the origin and development of terms
  + Semantic – changes in meaning are as common as changes in form
  + Morphological Analysis - by means of prefixes and suffixes
  + Syntactic/ translation - changes in meaning marked by using descriptive phrases
+ This short presentation will demonstrate the Syntactic approach used in teaching in the South African healthcare system (Universities)
Language Situation in the Western Cape

The 11 languages of South Africa’s 9 provinces

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Graphic by Mary Alexander - Data source: Statistics South Africa.
Lesson Lymph Nodes (the head)

- Tonsillar- amadlala
- preauricular - idlala eliphambi kwendlebe (infront of the ear)
- posterior auricular - idlala elisemva kwendlebe (behind the ear)
- occipital-idlala elisemva kwentloko
- submental - idlala eliphantsi kwsilevu
- submandibular -idlala lomhlathi ongezantsi
- superficial cervical -elisemva kwentamo (alikho nzulu)
Selected References


Advancing the use of African languages in education

BAQONDE is a collaborative project between European and South African Higher Education Institutions to facilitate and promote the use of indigenous African languages as mediums of instruction in tertiary education. Co-funded by the EU’s ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education programme, BAQONDE aims to guarantee a more (linguistically) inclusive and legitimate access to Higher Education by means of a coordinated inter-institutional strategy that seeks to train lecturers in the use of innovative multilingual teaching methodologies, develop new materials to both train teachers and teach multilingually, and establish a collaboratory network of African Language Development Units among SA partners.