The Use of Local African Languages as Languages of Science

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Abstract: In this paper, I focus on a number of multilingual initiatives that have been taken at the University of Pretoria to determine whether or not it is feasible to use African languages as media of instruction at secondary schools and in the Foundation Year Physics course which is intended for incoming University students. The initiatives include the translation of the 'Force Concept Inventory' into six languages and the administration thereof to Foundation Year students, the translation of South African Senior Certificate Physical Science papers and their memoranda into Northern Sotho; as well as various attitudinal surveys administered to assess students' opinions on being taught through languages other than English.

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Nordic Journal of African Studies Instead, local and international languages complement each other, and both are indispensable for the harmonious and full development of individuals and society. Multilingualism is delineated into the areas of language vitality, language status, language shift and language policies. This author claims that, instead, the use of these languages should be extended to students' entire educational career (primary, secondary and tertiary education). He wonders how one could promote African languages when these languages are stigmatised as inferior (in the aftermath of Bantu Education). Local languages and local curriculum need to be valued and children need to be prepared in order to be reflective, critical, knowledgeable and mobile in the world, which will support African development. Discover the world's research. 15+ million members. in Africa. The study finds that the use of colonial languages as languages of schooling, has, been influenced by the still powerful notion throughout Africa that learning in a foreign language will promote development and modernization. A particularly persistent view is that advocates of mother tongue instruction merely engage in obfuscation of the problem. The subterfuge has been to recast the. The languages of Africa are divided into six major language families: Afroasiatic languages are spread throughout Western Asia, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and parts of the Sahel. Austronesian languages are spoken in Madagascar. Indo-European languages are spoken in South Africa and Namibia (Afrikaans, English, German) and are used as lingua francas in the former colonies of Britain and Liberia (English), former colonies of France and of Belgium (French), former colonies of Portugal and remaining