

ICL2024

Workshop Proposal

Title: **Kaaps linguistics in contemporary South Africa**

Convenor: **Quentin Williams (University of the Western Cape)**

Keywords: Kaaps, Translingualism, Historical Linguistics, Grammar, Socio-Syntax, Corpus Linguistics, Language Attitudes, Classroom, Bilingual Materials, Linguistic Citizenship, Gospel Music, Stancetaking, Entextualization, Performance, Translanguaging.

Abstract

Kaaps is one of the oldest ‘languages’ in South Africa. From colonialism to post-apartheid, activists, academics, artists, authors continue to campaign for the empowerment of Kaaps speakers in schools, universities, social life, politics, and the economy of South Africa. Kaaps is also an important linguistic resource in the Western Cape and beyond. In recent years, there has been an increased focus and production of research and creative writing on:

- (1) The history of formation of Kaaps
- (2) The social life of Kaaps
- (3) The linguistic description of Kaaps;
- (4) The unification of the writing system;
- (5) The educational advancement of Kaaps for academic literacy in basic and higher education; and
- (6) The political, media and economic benefits of Kaaps.

Today, Kaaps speakers can watch film and listen to music in Kaaps. They can read newspapers and the Bible (partially) in Kaaps. The first *Trilingual Dictionary of Kaaps* is currently being developed and Kaaps bilingual learning materials for the basic education system. All of these developments have inspired a burst in linguistic science research into Kaaps as a language of teaching and learning or a subject at school and university level, the development of terminology (word) banks, the grammar and orthography of Kaaps, studies on the creation and performance of popular cultural genres, and the translingual study and analyses of racialized identities practice by Kaaps and non-Kaaps speakers.

In this workshop, we present contemporary Kaaps linguistics research by senior and emerging researchers working in the areas of general linguistics (socio-syntax), applied linguistics, corpus linguistics, educational linguistics and sociolinguistics. We ask and answer the following questions:

- What is the status of Kaaps linguistics in contemporary South Africa?
- How do studies of Kaaps linguistics ensure the access, success and empowerment of Kaaps and non-Kaaps speakers in South Africa?

Presenters:

1. Early Kaaps, 1652-1798: the colonial and creole life of a South African language by Quentin Williams (University of the Western Cape)

2. Something Old and Something New: Continuity and Innovation in the Grammar of Kaaps by Theresa Biberauer and Erin Pretorius (University of the Western Cape)
3. Data Collection for a Socially Sensitive Study of Kaaps (Morpho-) Syntax by Erin Pretorius (University of the Western Cape), Theresa Biberauer, Chevan van Rooi (University of the Western Cape), Lawren Smith (University of the Western Cape) and Jessica Albertyn (University of the Western Cape)
4. #dalawhatyoumust: Kaaps, translingualism and linguistic citizenship in Cape Town by Zaib Toyer (University of the Western Cape) and Amiena Peck (University of the Western Cape)
5. Kaaps in Essays: how to handle signs of informalization by Carla Lindt (University of the Western Cape)
6. Osse Science: translanguaging with Kaaps bilingual learning material by Veronique Williams (University of the Western Cape)
7. "Kwai" is not an appropriate expression of God": Stancetaking on Kaaps gospel music by Shanleigh Roux (University of the Western Cape)