



Integrating MobiLex

The integration of MobiLex, a multilingual glossary, in the context of teaching and learning at Stellenbosch University (SU) began in 2021. We started off within the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Theology. Creative, innovative tutorials and workshops were offered at the Faculty of Education. We are planning to integrate the project further, across the various faculties at SU. It is also supported by a University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG) – currently, the only UCDG project hosted at a faculty. The project team consists of project leader Dr Michele van der Merwe; Mrs Jana Nel, who coordinates the integration of MobiLex; and Mrs Antoinette van der Hoven, who provides support and assistance with planning, research and marking.

Initially, the task team had focussed on the integration of MobiLex into teaching and learning for BEd first-year students. At the first workshop, in March, staff recommended that the integration of MobiLex into teaching and learning should apply to PGCE students as well. What follows is an overview of what we have achieved at the Faculty in the past year:

Much research, hard work and planning went into designing a *How-to Guide*. This guide serves as source material for nine weeks' training for lecturers and students at Education. It is available in Afrikaans, English and Xhosa. Dr Simthembile Xeketwana lended much assistance with translating it into Xhosa.

Also, a SUNLearn module page was created for students, with specific educational learning activities from MobiLex that focus on conceptual and academic literacy.

PGCE students (for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education) as well as first-year students sat for pre- and post- academic literacy tests. The pre-literacy test was taken without any knowledge of or assistance with the MobiLex app. Thereafter, the students took part in eight tutorial sessions about using the MobiLex app efficiently. At the end of the course, they wrote the post-literacy test. The results showed a definite improvement on the pre-literacy test, confirming the expectation that the MobiLex app will assist students with conceptual and academic literacy.

Successful, exciting tutorials were presented in the second and fourth terms. Four weekly multilingual online tutorial sessions were offered for PGCE students. Attendance was excellent, with ±120 students participating diligently every week. Eight weekly multilingual online tutorial sessions were offered for first-year students. Attendance was very good, with ±100 students participating diligently every week. All students who had attended the tutorials without fail received a certificate of attendance. Three final-year BEd students – Eddie Buys, Frances Bell

and Zama Ndotho – took the lead at the sessions. All three tutors worked very hard, and together they were able to assist participants in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa.

Two workshops regarding the integration of MobiLex were presented for all lecturers at the Faculty. The first, in March, informed participants about MobiLex and the plans for integration. The Dean, Prof Madiba, was the keynote speaker. The second workshop took place on International Literacy Day, 8 September. Following presentations by Mrs Nel and Van der Hoven, the attendees were divided into breakout groups to discuss and plan the integration of MobiLex in the various specialisation modules. Dr Anthea Jacobs assisted with that process. All lecturers who took part in both workshops received a certificate of attendance.

We had a busy and successful year integrating MobiLex at the Faculty, and we are very excited about and satisfied with the positive feedback that we have received from students as well as lecturers. Although the focus for 2022 will be on the two faculties mentioned below, we are planning to keep going every year, integrating and applying MobiLex at the Faculty of Education.

The following steps for integration will be taken at the Faculty of Economic of Management Sciences and at Arts and Social Sciences in 2022:

- Host a workshop for lecturers, focusing on integrating MobiLex in their teaching and learning context. A hugely successful workshop at the EMS Faculty has already been held in March 2022.
- Conduct pre-tests for first-year or undergraduate students.
- Host one or two workshops for these students, focusing on integrating MobiLex in their learning context.
- Conduct post-tests for first-year and undergraduate students who have participated in the above-mentioned workshops.
- Adapt the *How-to Guide* to be applied at these two faculties.

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive 2022.