

Abstract

This is a phenomenological study that studies a small group (5) of adult learners and two (2) teachers at E.W. Hobbs ABET center in Eldoradopark, and investigates how the colloquial Afrikaans spoken in Eldoradopark and the home environment influences the learners' competency in the classroom where 'standard' Afrikaans is required. The study revealed that standard Afrikaans is a requirement across the curriculum at this center, but is only rigorously applied in the Afrikaans class. This proved to have an impact on learning as colloquial Afrikaans is accepted in all other classes except the Afrikaans class. The implications of this is that the curriculum should be reevaluated and adjusted to implement standard Afrikaans in all learning areas, or accept colloquial Afrikaans in all subjects, including the Afrikaans class.

Key words: standardization, colloquial Afrikaans, standard Afrikaans, coloured, public schools, dialect, code switching, bilingualism, written standard, speech community