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CHEMISTRY IN SEPEDI: TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS?

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to offer a contribution to the field of translation by applying the practices of descriptive translation studies to a corpus of Chemistry terms in English and translated into Sepedi in order to establish whether the translation strategies opted for prove successful in promoting Sepedi to be a language for special purposes (LSP). The theoretical framework which is used in this project is the model of Baker (1992) of translation strategies of Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS). DTS is one of the three main branches of Translation Theory (Holmes, 1972). It differs from the other approaches in that it does not offer a set of guidelines which dictate how a translation should be done. Attention was also paid to theories of translation, such as those of Lawrence Venuti (2000) and his concepts of domesticating and foreignising translation in order to establish whether the translators have domesticated or foreignised the text and to what extent? Both strategies are evident in the corpus.

This project also focused on the issue of the mother tongue education in the South African context with the emphasis on the perceptions and attitudes of learners and educators towards translated materials. Learners and their educators show some resistance to the use of local African languages, specifically Sepedi as medium of instruction in high schools. Reasons for their resistance against mother tongue education are economic and political. African languages are regarded as “low languages”, languages of inferior status as compared to English and Afrikaans.

DECLARATION

I RAISIBE GLORIA MALEKA declare that *Chemistry in Sepedi: translation strategies for success?* is my original work and has not been previously submitted in any form whatsoever, by myself or anyone else, to this university or to any other educational institution for any degree or examination purposes. All sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and duly acknowledged by means of complete references.

…… ……

Signature Date

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the memory of my late father, Pururu Philemon Maleka. My sincere thanks and appreciation is also extended to my dear mother, Raisibe Ziphora Maleka, my sisters (Joyce, Mmathabo, Mapule and Baatseba) and my only brother (Kgaogelo) for their love, support and encouragement.

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