One size does not fit all!

A case study of the development and publishing of local, multi-lingual stories for adult literacy learners in the South African context.
WOZA FRIDAY

written by Wendy Annecke
illustrated by Savyra Scott
On Monday when I wake up
my head is sore
my tongue is thick
my arms are heavy
my back hurts
my legs are slow
I can hardly move.
But on Friday
when I wake up
my eyes are bright
my heart is light
my hands clap
my fingers snap
my feet tap
I am ready for the weekend.
New Readers Publishers - Who we are

• The context of our work
• What we believe
• What we do and how we do it
  – Development and Publishing
  – Workshops
  – Promotion and Advocacy
The issues and challenges facing New Readers Publishers

- Lack of political will
- Decline in ABET provision
- Dominance of majority languages
- Attitudes to stories and fiction
Who we are

• Donor-funded
• 30 readers in English and isiZulu
• Main aims
• Non-profit publishing project
The context of our work

• Adult literacy and materials available

• Languages and literacy statistics

• Economy and fall out from global economic crisis
Percentage of people that speak each official language (Stats SA 2011)

- isiZulu 22.70%
- isiXhosa 16%
- Afrikaans 13.5%
- English 9.6%
- Sepedi 9.1%
- Setswana 8%
- Sesotho 7.6%
- Xitsonga 4.5%
- Siswati 2.5%
- Tshivenda 2.4%
- isiNdebele 2.1%
Fort Warwick Farm School
Eastern Cape
South Africa
visited on 3rd July 2013
What we believe

• you become a fluent reader by reading
• learners need to read a variety of books
• reading has to be meaningful from the beginning
• the teacher/facilitator/librarian is the best role model for fluent and varied reading
What we believe continued

• learners do not have to be word perfect before they can move on to the next book or level
• learners should not be corrected all the time
• reading is fun
• the more fluently you read, the more you enjoy it!
What we do and how we do it

Development and Publishing
  - Readability and format
  - Content and language

Workshops - 2 types of workshop
  - Promoting Reading workshops
  - Writing and Editing workshops

Promotion and Advocacy
  - Institutional base and literacy links
  - Give away books
Mmatli ke lekau le lentle, le le agegileng sentle mme o bonolo. Ke lekau le le rategang tota. Basetsana ba mo tsoma semmutla.
Mmatli ke morwa a le esi wa ga mohumi Rapoo. Rapoo e ne e le rramesese tota.
Mmatli a simolola go ratana le basetsana ba le babedi Seitatolo le Kemang. O rata basetsana ba ka go tshwana.
“Morwaake basetsana ba le babedi, ba ba rutegileng e bile ba ratega, o nyala mang?" ga botsa mmaagwe. “Mme ruri ga ke itse,” ga araba Mmatli ka khutsafalo.
Mmatli o ne a hutsafala, a tlhonama. A akanya, “Ke eng ke rata basetsana ba, ka go tshwana? Ke eng basetsana ba, ba nkgogela jaana? Ga ke rate go utlwisa ope wa bone botlhoko. Ke dire eng?”
Mmatli a ya go rraagwe go senka keletso. "Rre ga ke itse gore ke tlhope mang go nna molekane wa me fa gare ga basetsana ba babedi ba," ga ipega Mmatli.
Rraagwe a araba ka lentswe le le kwa tlase a re, “Seitatolo le Kemang ke dikgaitsadi tsa gago, morwaake. O ka se nyale ope wa bone.”

“Nnyaya ga ke dumele!” Mmatli a goa. Mmatli a itatlhela ka mo mabogong a ga mmaagwe.
“Ehe! Ka tota. Go raya gore dipuo tse ke ntseng ke di utlwa ke nnete! Nte ke go bolelele “boy” yo, ngwana ga se wa gago!”
Mmaagwe a bua a gomotsana le morwawe a re, “O intshwarele ngwanake, ke ne ke sa itse gore nka go bolelela jang. Fela monna yo, ga se rraago.”

BOKHUTLO
Promoting Reading Workshop held on 12th September, Durban, South Africa
Promoting Reading workshops
Promoting Reading Workshop
February 2011
Port Elizabeth
South Africa
Promoting Reading Workshop in October 2012 at the Jozi Book Fair
Johannesburg, South Africa
Writing and Editing workshops
IsiXhosa Writers’ and Editors’ Workshop held in 2011 in the Eastern Cape, South Africa
IsiXhosa Writers’ and Editors’ Workshop held in 2011 in the Eastern Cape, South Africa
What we do and how we do it

Development and Publishing

- Readability and format
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Workshops - 2 types of workshop

- Promoting Reading workshops
- Writing and Editing workshops

Promotion and Advocacy

- Institutional base and literacy links
- Give books away
The issues and challenges faced by New Reader Publishers

• Lack of political will – resource allocation
• Decline in ABET provision in the various sectors
• Dominance of majority languages
• Attitudes to stories and fiction
Decline in number of ABET books sold

Books sold to private sector 2001 - 2012

- 2009-2012
  - Books sold to private sector 2001 - 2012

- 2005-2008

- 2001-2004
  - Books sold to private sector 2001 - 2012
“The self-esteem, self-confidence, potential creativity and spontaneity that come with being able to use the language(s) that have shaped one from early childhood (one’s mother tongue) is the foundation of all democratic polities and institutions. To be denied the use of this language is the very meaning of oppression.” Neville Alexander, 27 October 2005
NRP books sold per language

- ENGLISH 158534
- ISIZULU 94737
- ENGL/ISIZULU 16920
- SESOTHO 12861
- ISIXHOSA 11854
- SEPEDI 6248
- AFRIKAANS 4825
- SETSWANA 3556
- SISWATI 2583
- ISINDEBELE 2508
- XITSONGA 1241
- TSHIVENDA 682
- ENGL/SEPEDI 362
Books sold to training organisations by NRP 1991 - 2013
My Conclusions

• Original aims – Successes
• On-going challenges
• Final thoughts