SeLA – Scientific e-Lexicography for Africa

Project overview

Objectives and task types

- Objectives:
  - Design new types of electronic dictionaries
  - Integrate methods from different domains
  - Contribute to theory of lexicography
- Task types:
  - Joint research on specific lexicographic issues
  - Training of advanced students and young researchers
  - Integration of aspects of intercultural communication in scientific collaboration

Motivation

- Multilingual South Africa: 2 + 9 official languages: EN, Afrikaans, 9 Bantu
- Online language tools: empowerment of the people
- South Africa as a "laboratory" of lexicography: testing new solutions

Sample Tasks

- Common backbone document on lexicographic theory
- Explaining Bantu kinship terms for non-Bantu dictionary users
- Concepts and tools for interactive text production dictionaries
- Design of a multilingual ontology of morpho-syntactic items of the Sotho and Nguni languages (trial phase: Northern Sotho and Zulu)
- Design of school dictionaries for Namibia
- Design of a corpus-based Xhosa-English-Xhosa e-dictionary
- Online dictionaries of Afrikaans multi-word expressions
- Online terminology of university administration, derived from study guides

Partners – Interdisciplinarity

- Germany:
  - U Hildesheim
- South Africa:
  - U South Africa
  - U Pretoria
  - U Stellenbosch
- Namibia:
  - U Namibia, Windhoek

Scenario – Workpackages

- WP-1: Theor. Models
- WP-2: Corpus Techn.
- WP-3: User orientation
- WP-4: Sample dictionaries
- WP-5: Intercult. teaching
- WP-6: Intercult. communication

Annual Calendar

- Research visits
- Students’ excursions "hanging out"
- Research visits
- Status seminar
- SA tandems

Cooperation Devices

- Annual status seminar: reports on ongoing projects
- Regular research visits in both countries, ongoing joint research work
- North/South student tandems, partly to prepare BA/MA-theses
- Student excursions preparing BA/MA stay: Hildesheim → South Africa
- Intercultural training for students and researchers
- Monitoring of project communication wrt. communication problems