

## **Hawassa University**

### **College of Social Sciences and Humanities**

#### **Brief Report by Sociolinguistic and Communication Group**

This project is called “Linguistic Capacity Building: Tools for Inclusive Development of Ethiopia”. The project span goes between February 2014- January 2018. The first project Phase is starting from March 2014- July 2014. As a grant recipient and as Sociolinguistic and Communication team, the team has executed the following activities.

#### **Planned activities**

The planned key activities were as it follows:

- Planned to launch M.A in Multilingual studies
- Planned to work towards launching a laboratory
- Purchasing of materials
- Planned to conduct research and to publish the proceedings of the various workshops and training offered.

#### **Executed Activities**

The activities planned by this specific team has been executed as expressed here under.

##### **1. Launching of M.A in Linguistics and Multilingual studies**

The curriculum developed by this team was endorsed to the Academic Standards of the University and got approval. The curriculum development and approval for the postgraduate

programme is to be launched in this new Ethiopian Year, September 2007 E.C /September 2014/ was actualized. The programme has two specializations. These are

- ⊙ Linguistics and Multilingual Studies
- ⊙ Culture and Communication

The programme was advertized and admissions will be given new students in the programme by the end of September.

## **2. Launching of a laboratory**

The launching of laboratory was planned, but it is an ongoing process and would be commenced in the second phase when the next budget is released.

## **3. Purchasing of Materials**

- ⊙ The Purchase of a laptop for the programme is under progress following the purchasing regulation of the country
- ⊙ Purchasing of books for the new programme- This was not materialized due to budget, but will be purchased from the next budget/ in the second phase.
- ⊙ Purchase of a video recorder was done with the help of Oslo University.

## **4. Workshops**

### **4.1 Networking Workshop**

A networking workshop was organized by Hawassa University in collaboration with Addis Ababa and Oslo Universities organized for two days in order to create a forum to discuss issues

and challenges related to first language learning, and how to study languages of nations and nationalities in the South Region. In addition, practices, challenges, and concerns related to sign language and education for the deaf in Ethiopia were addressed. About 50 participants took part in the workshop and it was a success.

## **4.2 Training Workshop**

### **4.2.1 . Training on Sidama language**

A training was offered on Sidama language for HU students and teachers at HU by Prof. Yri from Oslo University

### **4.2.2 Training Workshop at Wolkite Town**

The workshop was organized by Addis Ababa University (AAU), Hawassa University (HU) in collaboration with University of Oslo. Meanwhile, In the workshop it was particularly focused on the fact that the Gurage language has not yet been used for any institutional purposes including functional literacy. The workshop was aimed at familiarizing Gurage orthography, writing grammar for Muhir and Gumer varieties. In this workshop about 40 participants took part.

S.No	Training topics	Presenter	Period
1.	Language Acquisition, Education, and Development	Professor Baye Yimam	Half Day
2.	Current development in the Orthography of Guragina	Fekede Menuta (PhD)	Half Day
3.	“General Introduction to Language	Ronney Meyer (PhD)	Half Day

	Development and Standardization		
--	---------------------------------	--	--

### 4.2.3 Training Workshop at Hawassa University

A training workshop for journalist, government communications, culture and language experts was conducted by Sociolinguistics and Communication group. The workshop took the theme “Media Practice, Management and Linguistic Pluralism towards Developmental Journalism in Ethiopia”. More than 60 participants who are media managers, heads government communications, journalists, senior language and cultural experts were in attendance. The hoped to provide the trainees to get insights on theories and paradigms regarding issues pertaining to the role of the media in the society; the interface between language, communication and culture so that the participants of the training will be able to do their job within the perspectives of what the job they do demands of them.

S.No	Training topics	Presenter	Period
1.	Media practice(Electronic)	Dr.Yohannes Shiferaw	Full day
2.	Media management	Dr. Nigussie Meshesha	Full day
3.	Media Theories and Ethics	Dr.Yohannes Shiferaw	Full day
4.	Developmental Journalism	Dr. Nigussie Meshesha	Full day
	Language use, Media, Culture and Society	Dr. Moges	Half day
		Dr. Biniam Sisay	Half day
6.	Linguistic Pluralism and Folklore in media	Dr. Fekede Menuta	Half day
		Abraham Tadesse	Half day n

## **5. Research**

Two researchers in this team commenced their research in Gurage and Sidama zone. One of the researchers, in fact, does belong to Semitic group, and the other one belongs to Sociolinguistics group. As the Sociolinguistic and Communication area is a cross cutting, other researchers will take part in this team to carryout research.

Besides, four PhD students were selected from the staff of the School of Language and Communication Studies, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hawassa University where three of them belong to Sociolinguistic and Communication team.

## **6. Links Created**

Some links were created with the following institutions in the Southern Nations, nationalities and People's Regional Government.

- ⦿ Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional government's Television and Radio Agency
  
- ⦿ Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional government's culture and Tourism bureau
  
- ⦿ Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional government's Government's communications bureau