



QUESTIONS AND ARGUMENTS

Is the fuss about Afrikaans on university campuses really worth the trouble?

The Principle argument

- Yes, because we are Afrikaans.
- Tertiary education in Afrikaans, is not a privilege but a right.
- If this right is not exercised it shrivels to nothing.
- This is just as much a fight about the saving of a language than about institutions and the institutional knowledge of personnel that have been built up with considerable cost over generations.
- Groups like Open Stellenbosch does not just have a language agenda, but in reality an 'ethnic cleansing' agenda.
- In conclusion, we have to kick up a fuss about Afrikaans on University campuses because there is so much more at stake here than just a language.

Afrikaans' place on SA campuses

ARTICLES



Foute in UV se hersiene taalbeleid

"Mense kan gerus vleisbraai en bid in die tale van hul voorkeur, maar mag op generlei wyse aandring op enige ander regte vir hul tale nie.

Dit sluit duidelik die onderwys in."



Standpunt van die FAK oor Afrikaans op Universiteit

"... ons mense slegs een gevolgtrekking daaruit maak: dat ons nie welkom is aan die bestaande universiteite nie, en dat ons voortaan vir Afrikaans 'n eie universitêre toekoms sal skep."

The majority of students on university campuses are not Afrikaans. Why force this on them?

The Constitutional argument

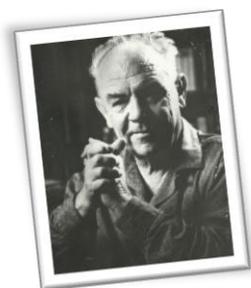
- SA is a Constitutional State where the Constitution determines in Section 6 that Afrikaans is an official language.
- Section 9 determines that the state may not directly or indirectly discriminate against any person on the

basis of their race, language or culture.

- Section 29 states that everyone has the right to be educated in publicly funded educational institutions in the official language of their choice, taking into account single medium institutions.

- Afrikaans students still make up a significant percentage of the students corps at the US, the UP and also the NWU campuses (30% at the UP)
- When English speaking students made up only 14% of the UP student corps, it was considered "economically justifiable" to have classes in English.
- The principle of democracy is being watered down to mere race representivity.

Is negotiation not the better way forward?



NP van Wyk
Louw

The Political argument

- The State's ideology of racial demographical representation according to the 80-9-9-2 formula, makes negotiation virtually impossible.
- Countless language policies in the past,

regarding Afrikaans' place at universities have turned out to be empty promises.

- 7 million (and growing) people in South Africa indicate Afrikaans as their first language, clearly showing a need for tertiary education in Afrikaans.

- The state is simply not concerned about this issue and the political will to address this need is absent.
- By fortifying community independence and using legal remedies to force to state to meet their obligations, we can achieve success.
- Building up of the 'own', and standing against what is wrong, is the way forward.



Students at the UFS vandalizing the statue of CR Swart

Why should universities be hassled with conserving language and culture, is that not the function of cultural organizations?

The Cultural argument

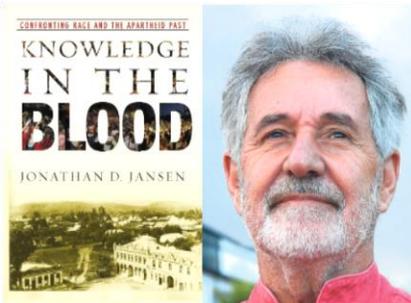
- Culture has played a crucial role with the establishment of most successful universities in our modern world.
- The cultivation of students has always been considered one of the cornerstones of universities where someone could only be considered cultivated if they have mastered several languages, especially their own.
- The cultivation of mother tongue languages at universities has always represented an undeniable part

of the academic life of a university.

- The poor levels of English which is displayed at universities today, resembles a serious flouting of the cultivation objective.
- The development of mother tongue languages at university can help to restore the ideal of student



cultivation to its proper place.



Dís waaroor dit gaan, Prof

" Given the level of wilful intolerance in this country – now presented as "pragmatism" and "making up for past injustices" – against the backdrop of a cadredom of robbers who have stolen power in the name of a people's struggle for justice ... "

Should we not be doing everything in our power to make Universities more accessible so that everyone can feel at home?



The Accessibility argument

- There is not one single piece of evidence that Afrikaans classes at "our" universities discriminate against students of other languages.
- The broader university sector already consists of more than 80% black ("African") students.
- Afrikaans institutions have bent over backwards to accommodate students of other language. This gesture is now equated to discrimination against them.
- If English becomes the language of tuition, the Afrikaans student will now feel excluded and be denied an education in Afrikaans.
- Afrikaans students are now being made to feel that their language and culture is unwelcome in their own country.

Our children will be working in a decidedly English environment. Should they not learn to become sufficient in English from an early age?

The Academic argument

- The intentional removal of Afrikaans as an academic language will be a first in world history.
- The logical next step would be to remove Afrikaans as language of tuition at primary and secondary schools.
- More than 350 Afrikaans schools nationwide have closed their doors in the past few years!

- Afrikaans is one of only four languages, the only in Africa, which has succeeded in the past century to become an academic language!
- All research relating to mother tongue education is strongly in favour thereof.
- To be educated in a second language has serious implications with regards to learning problems, self-image and leadership potential.
- The neglect of Afrikaans will be a short cut to the dumbing-down process.

Afrikaans can still be used as a medium of tuition at private institutions, why not rather follow that route?

The Privatisation argument

- Private universities are a well-established concept worldwide and especially in Africa.
- The number of private universities in Africa will within the next few years exceed the number of state universities.
- The quality of education provided by private institutions, like Akademia does not deter from any other tertiary institution.
- However, we should caution against forsaking existing institutions of high calibre in favour of new institutions.
- If Afrikaans is privatized and constantly retreats from public institutions like universities and schools, the space in which Afrikaans exist will become so small that it will in time become a negligible commodity.
- The way forward will be to support private institutions, but not give up on Afrikaans' place at public institutions.

JAMMER TERBLANCHE, ONS GAAN NIÉ KULTURELE SELFMOORD PLEEG NIE!



“Volgens Delport is die Afrikaner se apartheidsverlede so onlosmaaklik deel van hom dat daar niks is wat die Afrikaner kan doen om weg te beweeg daarvan nie. Die enigste uitweg volgens hom is selfmoord en uitsterf.”



Children learn better in their mother tongue

Global Partnership for Education – “Research has shown that children’s first language is the optimal language for literacy and learning throughout primary school (UNESCO, 2008a). In spite of growing evidence and parent demand, many educational systems around the world insist on exclusive use of one or sometimes several privileged languages.”

Why should Afrikaans be favoured above other languages?

The Privilege argument

- It is a total disgrace that government has done nothing to develop other indigenous languages to tertiary level.

- The protection and promotion of Afrikaans does not mean that there is a campaign against other languages in South Africa.

- Most Afrikaners simply ask to be afforded a fair opportunity to contribute to South African society and their own community, in their own unique way.

- However, Afrikaners do demand cultural freedom.

- The right to be culturally free, is not afforded at the expense of other groups.

- South Africans of all cultures should petition the government to do more to promote all indigenous languages to tertiary level.

In order to obtain a copy of the full report, send an e-mail to: christoff@fak.org.za



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