

INTRODUCTION

This issue contains a final selection of entries from A to Z in booklet form. We are now combining the lists in the four volumes printed during the last three years and it is our intention to publish an Index of English Usage in Southern Africa in the near future.

A feature of this issue is the replacement of Bantu (Ba) by African (Afr) as applied to persons (as distinct from a Bantu language, for example). We have adopted African for the following reasons;

it is linguistically the logical term to use (cf Europe – European, Canada – Canadian);

we sent a circular to 100 Africans in Southern Africa asking them to list the words Africa, Bantu, Black, Native, Non-European and Non-White in order of preference. Fifty-two forms have been returned to date. Thirty-eight correspondents offered 'African' as a first choice, and eleven 'Black'. The two terms least acceptable were 'Native' and 'Bantu'. 'Native' appeared eighteen times and 'Bantu' fifteen times, as the last choice. No correspondent rejected 'African' as an unacceptable term, but one preferred to be classified as a 'South African'. 'Non-European' and 'Non-White' were rejected because of the 'negative connotations implied in them'. 'Bantu' was rejected as too vague a term.

Phonetic transcriptions have been added to those Afrikaans entries which include definitions, and the italicized r has been introduced to represent the Afrikaans pronunciation of the consonant. For the benefit of foreign recipients of our publication this r is close to the Scottish r in pronunciation.

We also wish to bring to the attention of our readers that an Advisory Committee is considering the acceptability or non-acceptability of certain entries which we questioned in previous issues. The members of the Committee are:

Mr L. Bennett, formerly of the Teacher's Training College, Pretoria;

Mr J.J. Brits, formerly of the University of South Africa;

Prof. W.G. de Klerk, Department of Afrikaans and Nederlands, University of South Africa;

Dr P.G. du Plessis, Institute of Languages, Literature and Art, Human Sciences Research Council;

Prof. N.G. Sabbagha, Department of English, University of Pretoria;

Prof. D.R. Beeton, Department of English, University of South Africa; and

Miss Helen Dorner, Department of English, University of South Africa.

D.R. BEETON
HELEN DORNER.