

INTRODUCTION

In this fourth issue of *English Usage in Southern Africa* an attempt has been made to attain greater stability in the phonetic transcriptions. The International Phonetic Alphabet – adapted to suit our particular need – has proved more valuable than the system of symbols used in Volume 1 Numbers 1 and 2, especially in the case of the short vowels in words which have been adopted from Dutch/Afrikaans. The transcriptions may, at times, appear to be restrictive, but the restriction is justifiable, e.g. ‘pan’ given an English pronunciation conveys the meaning ‘a metal or earthenware vessel used for domestic purposes’, whereas [pan] immediately has connotations with ‘veld and vlei’ in the mind of a South African English speaker.

With regard to the acceptability or non-acceptability of vocabulary, we have become more stringent in our rejection of unacceptable words. Where an English translation is readily available, the Afrikaans term has been rejected, e.g. reedbuck +, rietbok x. In some cases our delineation may appear to be too arbitrary and our readers will disagree with us for reasons of their own. It is exactly this response that we wish to elicit for then we are in a better position to determine whether certain entries have become established usage, or whether they are generally not acceptable.

We intend supplying a fuller justification for our decisions once we are able to analyse the responses we receive.

I wish to emphasize once again that we are becoming more and more aware of the fact that South African English is an integral part of universal English, and that it is making a significant contribution to an international language.

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