Background to Teaching Reading in African Languages Pilot Study

Funda Uphumelele: TRiAL Launch
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11 November 2025

Reading is a <u>complex and non-linear process</u> that engages different linguistic components for its development

- Phonetics and Phonology: speech sounds and their relation to orthography

Domain assessed explicitly assessed in the Early Grade Reading Benchmarks

- Morphology: study of the smallest units of meaning in a word
- **Semantics:** how language conveys meaning
- **Syntax:** study of the language's grammar
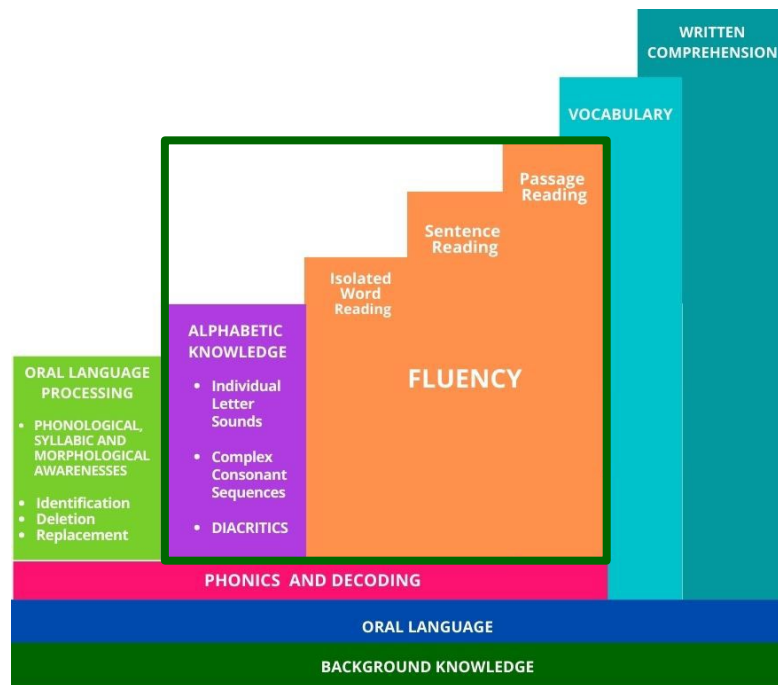- **Pragmatics:** appropriate choice of words in context

Depending on a language's structure the salience and interaction of these components vary in the reading development journey.

LITERACY BENCHMARKS
Establishment of Early Grade Reading Benchmarks

Considerations for Precursor Skills to Benchmark

- Predicts/facilitates later written comprehension

- Explicitly taught and preferably attainable (constrained skill) in the Foundation Phase

- Metric that is readily understandable and useful for different users

- Appropriate across South African educational context (e.g. linguistic diversity and socio-economic landscape)

Background and Purpose
Funda Uphumelele Reading Study and National Survey

- **EXPLORE** the hypotheses that there is relationship between certain linguistic domains (Morphological Awareness and Semantics) and key literacy outcomes (Letter Sound Knowledge, Isolated Word Reading, Oral Reading Fluency, ORF Comprehension and Written Comprehension).

- **ENGAGE** with various implicated DBE Programme Managers on the preliminary findings, drawn implications, hypotheses, and recommendations

- **DEVELOP** resources and guidelines for wider sectoral use

TRiALORIENTATION

Background and Purpose
Funda Uphumelele Reading Study and National Survey

i.   Strengthening and Revision of the CAPS documents;

ii.   Initial and Continuous Professional Teacher Development and Support;

iii.   The extension of the Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education to the Intermediate Phase; and

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Study Design

Language	Province						
	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	North West	Total
1. IsiNdebele					140		140
2. IsiXhosa	141						141
3. IsiZulu			136				136
4. Sepedi				141			141
5. Sesotho		139					139
6. Setswana						137	137
7. SiSwati					140		140
8. Tshivenda				140			140
9. Xitsonga				136			136
Total	141	139	136	417	280	137	1,250

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Study Design

- **Concept Note, samples and template**

- **Workshop Aug 2024**

- **Pilot Sept 2024**

- **Data Collection for the study was done in October 2024**

Thank you