A comprehensive picture of benchmarks & and lessons learnt

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Reading Benchmarks for African Languages

EGRS
EARLY GRADE READING STUDY

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Design Considerations

- Consider previous work

- Aligning research and the area of support

- Criteria development and definitions

- Method relevance

- Inclusivity

Design Considerations

Early grade reading → African language linguists → African language writers → Test development → Data collection → Quantitative data analysis → Research and policy interpretation

Data Considerations

Sample size	Representivity	Language competency	Reliability
Data completeness	Replicability	Correlations and prediction	Longitudinal data

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Language Distinctions

Diacritics

- Afrikaans, Sepedi and Tshivenḓa are the only languages in South Africa that use diacritics

- Tshivenḓa has 4 dental consonants with a circumflex accent below the letter

    (ḓ, ḽ, ṋ, ṱ) and an overdot for velar nasal (ṅ)

- As opposed to their plain alveolar counterparts (d l n t) with diacritics changes the word meaning
    - Example "tamba" versus "ṱamba"

Ṅ Ḓ Ḽ Ṋ Ṱ ṅ ḓ ḽ ṋ ṱ

Analysis and use

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	SCHOOL	CLASSROOM
Establishes definition of reading proficiency	Standards and targets that school leaders can aim towards	Standard against which to measure learner skills
Clearly communicates standards and targets	Standardises assessment practices across and within schools	Identify *early on* learners at risk of not being able to read.
Monitor progress	Identify the extent of remedial support required	Adapt instructional focus to meet learners' needs

Analysis and use

- Simplicity of measures and communication

- Comprehensiveness of measurement

- Correct emphasis on skills

- Supporting remediation and support

What next

1. Teacher practice development

1. Focus on unconstrained literacy skills

1.Information
2. Dissemination

1.Diagnosis
2. Remediation
3. Early Intervention

1. Reading with meaning

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Thank you

https://www.education.gov.za/Research,MonitoringEvaluationReports.aspx