**Editor’s Note**

Welcome to CLS News, after a very long break. This was due to some problems that were beyond our control. We therefore regret any inconvenience that may have been caused to our readers. We would however like to assure our readers that CLS News is now back and will strive to keep them posted about events taking place at CLS. Over the past few years when CLS News wasn’t in circulation, a lot has been happening. The Centre has been preoccupied with activities related to the draft Language Policy in education. To ensure that the public is aware of the contents of the draft policy, CLS has been conducting a series of sensitization meetings with different stakeholder such as Traditional and religious leaders, Education officials and teachers in the South East and Northern Education Divisions, Civil Society organizations dealing with issues of Education, the Media and the Parliamentary Committee on Education. These meetings have accorded the public an opportunity to understand the draft policy and its implications. The draft policy has now been delivered to the Ministry of Education for further action. The Centre has also conducted a number of surveys. The most notable of these include Language Mapping Surveys for Malawi and the HIV and AIDS project. Compilation of monolingual dictionaries in Ciyawo and Citumbuka is also currently underway.

The year 2008 was also memorable because it marked the departure of Professor Alfred Mtenje, who had been the Centre’s Director since its inception in 1996. Prof. Mtenje worked tirelessly to bring the Centre from humble beginnings to a well established and respected organization that it now is. In his place, another renowned linguist, Professor Pascal Kishindo, who has also been involved in CLS activities before, has taken over the Centre’s Directorship. CLS editorial board would like to wish Prof. Mtenje the best in all his endeavors and hope that he will

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**CLS - WHAT IT OFFERS**

The Centre for Language Studies was established on request from Government on 1st April, 1996 to take over some of the responsibilities and facilities of the dissolved Chichewa Board. The Centre’s main responsibility is to promote and develop Malawian languages. To do this, the Centre conducts research/consultancy in Malawian languages such as Chichewa, Citumbuka, Ciyawo, Cisena, Citonga, Cilomwe etc. The Centre also recognises the educational, social, economic and political importance of non-African languages like English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish and others. It therefore, carries out research and consultancy in these areas as well.

Among the many services the Centre offers are:

- Translation of materials from one language into another.
- Interpretation of speeches
- Editing of materials in various languages.
- Conducting short courses in both Malawian and non-Malawian languages e.g. Intensive Chichewa courses for foreigners.
• Collaborating with foreign research centres.

The Centre has professionally trained experienced and dedicated members of staff. For more information, please write to:
The Director,  
Centre for Language Studies,  
PO Box 108, Zomba.  
Tel (265) 01527460  
Fax: 01525587  
Email: cls@sdnp.org.mw

**CLS HAS NEW DIRECTOR**

Professor Pascal J.Kishindo is the new helmsman at CLS. He took over as Director on 1st September, 2008 from Professor Al Mtenje whose contract had come to end. Prof. Kishindo had been long time Head of African Languages and Linguistics, Deputy Dean of Humanities and Editor of University of Malawi’s premier journal, *Journal of Humanities* among other things. He has published extensively on Malawian languages.

In a sense Prof. Kishindo is not a new face at CLS. He has been involved with the Centre’s activities in different capacities since its inception. He brings to the Centre his diverse linguistic interests and expertise in Malawian languages and cultures.

We say to Prof. Kishindo: *Twapocele*,  
*Tamupokererani*, *Takulandilani*,  
Welcome to the Centre.

**STEWARDSHIP CHANGE AT CLS**

*Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.* Indeed, times change and we adapt ourselves to them. CLS is no exception. Professor Al Mtenje who had been at the helm of CLS as Director for twelve years completed his tenure at the end of August 2008. Prof. Mtenje was the founding Director and has left behind a *monumentum aere perennius*. Prof. Mtenje has since taken a sabbatical leave of which the first three months were spent at Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) in Cape Town. Once his sabbatical is over, he will resume his research and teaching at Chancellor College. We do hope he will continue sharing his experience and expertise gained over the years with us.

To Prof. Mtenje we say *Asante sana, Zikomo kwambiri, Dieu vous garde!*

**PROJECTS**

*Language Mapping for Northern Malawi*

In 2006 (May-June) the Centre carried out a language mapping survey for Northern Malawi. The main objective of the study was to determine the number
of languages and their geographical distribution in the region. Results of the study show that Citumbuka is the main language spoken in almost all the districts in the region. The study also revealed that there is mutual intelligibility among many of the languages spoken in Chitipa district. Based on the linguistic evidence provided mainly by phonological and lexical similarities, the researchers put the Chitipa dialects into the following language groups (in a descending order of similarity):

Language group 1:
Cindali>Cisukwa>Cilambya

Language group 2:
Cinamwanga>Cimambwe>Ciwandya

Language group 3: Cinyiha/Cinyika

Language group 4: Chichewa
Language group 5: Citumbuka

Language group 6: Cibemba

Language group 7: Kiswahili

The study also revealed that Karonga district has Citumbuka, Kyangonde, Cinkhonde, Nyakyusya, Cindali, Cisukwa, Cimambwe and Kiswahili as languages/varieties spoken there. The results also show that Kyangonde is the most dominant and prestigious language in the district and it is mainly spoken in T/As Kilupula, Mwakawoko and Kyungu while Cinkhonde, a related dialect, is spoken in Mwirang’ombe, Kilupula, Kyungu and Karonga central areas. Citumbuka is spoken in all areas of T/As Wasambo and Mwirang’ombe and parts of Kilupula and Kyungu. There are also pockets of Kiswahili speakers in some areas of Karonga because of the shared border with Tanzania.

Rumphi is a predominantly Citumbuka speaking district with varieties like Ciphoka, Cihenga, Cisisya, Cinyaluwanga, Citumbunyika which are spoken in different parts of the district.

The project was funded by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)

HIV and AIDS Project

The Centre for Language Studies conducted a study to determine the appropriateness, relevance and effectiveness of information, education and communication (IEC) materials being used for HIV and AIDS dissemination. The study was conducted in the months of May and June 2007. The results were disseminated to a cross-section of stakeholders at a workshop held at Hippo View Lodge in Liwonde from 28th to 30th January 2008. It is expected that results of this study will enable all stakeholders to ensure that all messages available and prepared for the youths are correct, relevant, appropriate, and easily accessible to them.

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Main Objective
The main objective of the study was to assess the relevance, appropriateness and effectiveness of messages available to the youths.

Specific Objectives
The specific objectives of this study were to:
1. Identify sources of HIV and AIDS information, education and communication materials for the youths.
2. Identify problems youth face in accessing and using information, education and communication materials.
3. Examine perceptions of the youth and the general public towards HIV and AIDS messages
4. Examine the kind of language used by the youth when communicating about sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS.
5. Examine the language used in the information, education and communication materials.
6. Examine whether or not the messages stigmatize or discriminate against any gender.
7. Seek the views of the youth and other members of the community on how to ensure that HIV and AIDS messages are appropriate and relevant.

The study was funded by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)

Language Mapping for Central and Southern Malawi
Between August and September 2008, the Centre for Language Studies conducted a language mapping survey for Central and Southern regions. The main objective of the study was to determine the number of languages and their geographical distribution. Report writing and map making for this survey are currently underway. However, preliminary results indicate that Central region languages include Chichewa, Ciyawo, Citumbuka, Citonga and Cisenga while Southern region languages include Chichewa, Ciyawo, Citumbuka, Cisena and Cilomwe. The study is being funded by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

Dictionary Projects
CLS is currently compiling a Ciyawo monolingual dictionary with funding from the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS). It is expected that the work will be completed later this year.

Running concurrently with this is the ‘Malawi Lexicon (MALEX) Project which is being funded by the Norwegian
Council for Higher Education Programme for Development (NUFU). The main objective of the project is to develop and compile glossaries for technical terms in three Malawian languages: Chichewa, Citumbuka and Ciyawo. The project, which started in 2007, will run up to 2011.

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Professor Laura Downing from the Centre for General Linguistics in Berlin, Germany visited CLS as a guest research professor from 29th November to 20th December 2008. Professor Downing conducted research on aspects of Citumbuka and Chichewa phonology respectively. On 11th December 2008, she presented a paper at Chancellor College entitled ‘The prosody of dislocation in selected Bantu languages.’

CHICHESA LANGUAGE COURSE IN PROGRESS AT CLS

CLS is currently offering a six week Chichewa intensive language course to Ms Jessica Johnson, an anthropology PhD student from the University of Cambridge in the UK. The course started on 26th January 2009 and will run up to 6th March 2009. Ms Johnson will later be conducting her PhD research in the country. Her research will focus on human rights and gender violence. Between June and July 2008, CLS offered a similar course to another PhD student, Ms Elizabeth Bintrim from the University of Wisconsin, USA. Ms Bintrim is expected back in Malawi mid this year.

TRANSLATIONS

In 2008, just like in the previous years, CLS received numerous documents from both individuals and organizations to translate from English into various Malawian languages. In 2008, CLS translated documents from the high profile organizations like the Anti Corruption Bureau, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the Malawi Law Commission, among others. Currently, CLS is translating into Chichewa, Fearless Fighter, an autobiography of Vera Chirwa, the well known veteran human rights activist in Malawi.

CASAS WORKSHOP AT CHANCELLOR COLLEGE

On 29th January, 2009 CLS hosted a one day workshop at Chancellor College, University of Malawi for the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) based in Cape Town, South Africa. Participants at the workshop included linguists, curriculum developers, representatives from Malawi Writers Union and PEN Malawi Chapter.
as well as teacher educators. The workshop was presided over by Professor Kwesi Prah, Director of CASAS. It was organized to plan for the forth coming teachers’ and writers workshop which will be held in Malawi on 19th February, 2009 at which participants will be briefed on harmonized orthographies for cross-border languages such as Cinyanja/Chichewa, Ciyawo, Cilomwe and Citumbuka among others.

**CLS STAFF LIST**

The current composition of staff at the Centre is as follows:

Director: Professor Pascal J. Kishindo

Deputy Director: Vacant

Ms Jean Chavula - Language Specialist (Citumbuka) and Acting Deputy Director

Mr Alick Kadango Bwanali – Language Specialist (Chichewa). On Study Leave at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Mrs. Stella Kachiwanda– Language Specialist (Ciawo). On Study Leave at Lancaster University in the UK

Mr. Mario S. Thodi - Language Specialist (Chichewa)

Mr. A.N.U. Mjaya - Language Specialist (Ciawo)

Mr. Arnold F. Mboga-Research Assistant (Ciawo)

Mr. Francis Botha Njaya- Research Assistant (Citumbuka)

Mr. H.T.H. Madona-Senior Executive Officer

Mr. Matthews H. Msokera-Computer Technician

Ms Eusta Namwaza Banda-Secretary

Ms Lucy Malata-Secretary

Mr. John Katanga-Office Assistant

Mr. Henry Chilumpha-Driver

Mr. Kunkeyani Douglas- Driver

Mrs. Jean Kampanje Phiri-Stores and Registry Clerk

Mr. Charles Mbeu-Assistant Accountant

Mr. Courtex Nzima-Receptionist and PABX Operator

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