**Editor’s Note**

Welcome to the fourth and last edition of CLS News in the year 2009. As we draw close to the end of the year, we also look back to take stock of our activities at the Centre. Among our achievements, the draft language policy was delivered to the Ministry of Education for further action. The Centre also completed writing a report on the Language mapping survey for the Central and Southern regions and a language map for Malawi is now available. Copies of the report and the map have already been sent to various stakeholders. In addition, the development of Ciyawo and Citumbuka grammatical terms was completed. In the course of the year, CLS also completed a Ciyawo monolingual dictionary, which has now been published by the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) in Cape Town, South Africa. We also need to mention about the on-going MALEX Project, which is now at an advanced stage. The MALEX team was recently on a dissemination tour in Mangochi and Rumphi districts, where in the process of dissemination, collected more lemmas.

The next edition of CLS News is expected in January 2010. Meanwhile, CLS Editorial Board wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mario S. Thodi               Arnold F. Mboga
Editor                        Assistant Editor

**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, Ciyao, 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:
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You can also visit our website on www.unima-cls.org

**CLS HAS NEW WEBPAGE**

The Centre for Language Studies (CLS) now has a new webpage on which the Centre’s information and activities can be accessed. CLS would like to thank Dr. Daniel Ridings of Goteborg University for assisting in the creation of the
webpage. Dr. Ridings is also a member of the MALEX Project. The new CLS site is at: unima-cls.org

MALEX PROJECT DISSEMINATED IN RUMPHI AND MANGOCHI

The Centre for Language Studies (CLS) is in the process of compiling, entering and verifying Citumbuka and Ciyawo lexical items which will later be developed into monolingual dictionaries in Citumbuka and Ciyawo respectively, under the Malawi Lexicon Project (MALEX) with funding from NUFU. These dictionaries will partly benefit the implementation of mother tongue education, which Malawi is considering to implement.

Following a field lexical collection exercise that was conducted in Rumphi (for Citumbuka) and Mangochi (for Ciyawo) between 3rd and 13th November 2008, the status report of the two languages, in September 2009, was as follows:

- Citumbuka: 4216 lemmas, 2926 definitions and 751 examples.
- Ciyawo: 5604 lemmas, 6003 definitions and 2048 examples.

However, there are still many lemmas that have been entered from various sources that have not been adequately defined or have not been defined at all and need to be referred to the native speakers of the languages.

For this purpose, from 12th to 17th October 2009, CLS MALEX team visited Mangochi and Rumphi districts where among other activities, briefed teachers and PTAs of selected primary schools about the MALEX Project. In the process, more words to be entered as lemma were discussed.

The specific objectives of this field work were:
1. To brief teachers and PTA members about the on-going MALEX Project; emphasizing the role it might play in the language policy in education implementation,
2. To discuss with teachers and PTA members meanings of words that have not been defined by CLS language experts,
3. To collect more words and their meanings in Citumbuka and Ciyawo

In Rumphi, schools were selected from Nkhamanga and Henga Valley areas. In Nkhamanga area, the following primary schools were visited: Chikwawa, Bolero, Chozoli, Kawaza, Chirambo and Chanyoli. In Henga Valley, the following primary schools were visited: Mhuju, Ng’onga, Chivungulu, Mzokoto, Lukali and Mkombi. As for Mangochi, the visited schools were selected from Traditional Authorities Katuli and Jalasi. In TA Katuli, the following schools were visited: Lusalumwe, Mchokola, Luchimwa, Mdinde, Mgwirizano and Luwalika. In TA Jalasi, the schools visited were: Kwilembe, Masongola, Kwiputi, Simbili and Majuni.

CIYAWO MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARY PUBLISHED

The long awaited Ciyawo monolingual dictionary has now been published. This concise
dictionary, which CLS has been working on for the past three years, is an offshoot of the MALEX Project and is entitled *Mgopolera Malowe jwa Ciyawo*. The dictionary has been published by the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) of Cape Town, South Africa.

**CHICHEWAS REFRESHER COURSE**

From 23rd October to 30th October 2009, CLS offered a Chichewa course to Dr. Bregje de Kok, a lecturer in International Health and ESRC/MRC research fellow at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. de Kok was previously offered an intensive Chichewa language course at CLS in 2007. Her main interests include sexual reproductive health, critical (health) psychology, qualitative research methods, including discourse analysis, and evaluation.

**INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN THE MEDIA**

The Director of CLS, Prof. Pascal Kishindo attended a workshop organized by the Lilongwe Press Club Limited on 26th September, 2009 at Boadzulu Holiday Resort, Mangochi. The workshop aimed at encouraging the local media to publish and broadcast more in the local languages so that the majority of the population can access media and its related products. Prof. Kishindo presented a paper on how the local language press had developed from the earliest times to the present. In the presentation, he also made suggestions on how the use of indigenous languages can be improved in the press. Prof. Kishindo also publicized the MALEX dictionaries now available online as a useful tool for media practitioners working in indigenous languages, and other resources available at CLS.

The workshop was attended by editors/media managers from leading media institutions including Daily Times, Malawi News, Television Malawi, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, Capital Radio, Malawi Institute of Journalism, Montfort Media and the Ministry of Information. The sponsors, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) were represented by Prof. Lazarus Miti, their Language Rights Fellow.

**MALAWI SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP**

Malawian sign language is one of the minority languages in the country that has largely been ignored and neglected until recently. However, things are now on track as the new Malawi National Association for the Deaf (MANAD) Board led by their energetic President Ms. Juliana Mwase, is making sure deaf people are on everyone’s radar. To this end, Prof. Pascal Kishindo, CLS’s Director, participated in the National Curriculum Development for Sign Language workshop from 27-29 August, 2009, at Andrews Hotel, Mangochi. The workshop was organized by the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Employment Authority (TEVETA) in conjunction with MANAD and assistance from Deaf Action, Scotland. The aim of the workshop was to produce a curriculum chart that would provide a framework for

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developing standards for training Malawi Sign Language teachers and interpreters.

Participants for the workshop came from Montfort Special Needs College, Ministry of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, Special Needs Education Department of the Ministry of Education, MANAD, Deaf Action, Scotland and CLS.

**INTERNATIONAL DEAF WEEK OPEN DAY**

The Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD) organized an international deaf week open day on 29th September 2009. The Association extended its invitation to CLS to attend the activities marking the day. Mr. A.N.U. Mjaya, CLS’s Ciyawo Language Specialist, attended the function on behalf of the Centre. Activities marking the event included a big walk, displays of various items made by deaf people, dances and speeches. The theme for this year was *Human Rights through Sign Language*.

**CASAS ADULT LITERACY INITIATIVE PILOT COMPLETED**

The CASAS pilot adult literacy support initiative started on 6th April 2009 and ended on 31st August 2009. The initiative, which was being coordinated by Mr. A.N.U Mjaya, CLS’s Ciyawo Language Specialist, was piloted in three centres in Domasi area. The centres were Ng’ombe, Mthundu and Mlera. The official closing function took place on Thursday, 29th October 2009 at Malemia court, Domasi. The post-mortem of the initiative established that it was successful because its objectives were achieved. It was noted that the initiative accorded the adult learners an opportunity to read other materials apart from their usual primers. It was also observed that the initiative managed to generate a reading desire amongst the learners as evidenced by the learners’ insistence to take the monographs home so that they could continue reading during their free time. Furthermore, it was noted that in some centres male adult learners had began attending lessons in order to have an opportunity to read the monographs. The adult learners were generally happy with the content of the monographs. This is an indication that the aim of the initiative, which was to facilitate access to vital information written in cross-border languages, was also achieved.

Compilation of the final report is over and this has been sent to CASAS, who are going to suggest the way forward from the recommendations made by CLS.

**STAFF ISSUES**

- Mrs. Stella Kachiwanda, one of the Centre’s Ciyawo Language Specialists and one-time Deputy Director, successfully defended her PhD thesis on 5th October, 2009 at the University of Lancaster. Her research project was on literacy; an important area for CLS and the nation as a whole. The thesis, which is entitled *Everyday Literacy among Ciyawo Speakers in Malawi: Do

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Public Information Texts Written in Ciyawo Constitute what they read?, investigates, among other things, access to and reading of public information texts in Ciyawo by foregrounding people’s everyday literacy practices.

Congratulations on your success Dr. Kachawanda! CLS is proud of you.

• CLS Citumbuka Language Specialist, Ms Jean Chavula, is away on study leave in the Netherlands. She was admitted at Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL) for a doctorate degree. Her dissertation topic is Verbal derivation in Tumbuka using HPSG. Her promoter at LUCL is Prof. Maarten Mous. Ms Chavula arrived at LUCL on 1st September 2009.

CLS wishes Ms. Chavula all the best in her studies.

• Ms Lucy Malata, who was a secretary at CLS, was posted to Chancellor College. She is now secretary at the Department of Fine and Performing Arts (FPA).

• Former CLS drivers, Mr. Henry Chilumpha and Mr. Kunkeyani Douglas, who were serving on full time employment, were with effect from 1st October 2009, re-employment by Chancellor College on renewable two year contracts.