

**TOWARDS MACROSTRUCTURAL REPRESENTATION OF
SUBLEXICAL AND MULTILEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS IN
TSHIVENDA- ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES**

BY

SHUMANI MERCY LUVHENGO

Research submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in African Languages

in the

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

in the

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

at the

UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH

TURFLOOP, SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR : MR M.C. MPHAHLELE

CO- SUPERVISOR : PROFESSOR S. LOUW

DATE SUBMITTED : AUGUST 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION	(i)
DECICATION	(ii)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	(iii)
ABSTRACT	(iv)
CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2	
LITERATURE REVIEW	17
CHAPTER 3	
TREATMENT OF SUBLEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS	32
CHAPTER 4	
TREATMENT OF MULTILEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS	50
CHAPTER 5	
CONCLUSION	62
BIBLIOGRAPHY	66

DECLARATION

I, declare that the mini dissertation hereby submitted to the University of the North for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained therein has been duly acknowledged.

S. Mhango.....
Signature

27.03.04
Date

DEDICATION

I am dedicating this dissertation to the following people:

1. My mom Johanah Luvhengo.
2. My brother- in- law Avhashoni Ramagoma.
3. My sister Thivhulawi Ramagoma.
4. My husband Ntshavheni Nevhulaudzi.
5. My daughter Hulisani Nevhulaudzi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My acknowledgements go to the following people, without whom I may not have succeeded in writing this thesis:

- My supervisor, Mr M.C. Mphahlele, whose patience, dedication and encouragements gave me hope and confidence. You were always serious and determined to see me go through this '**academic bridge**'. Your determination was swift in handling the work I submitted to you for corrections.
- Professor S. Louw, for co-supervising this research, thank you very much for your hard.
- I also want to thank Professor R.N. Madadzhe for his encouragement and fruitful advice during my studies.
- The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, for financing my studies. My gratitude also goes to Professor M.J. Mafela and Dr M.R. Madiba for their effort in guiding me in this research.
- Special appreciation is also extended to the following family members who encouraged me in my studies:

My brother, Dr Thifhelimbilu Luvhengo, my niece Dr Avhantendi Ramagoma, my nephwe, Mr Thendo Ramagoma, my husband Ntshavheni Nevhulaudzi for creating a good atmosphere at home for me to study.

- Finally, I thank God the Almighty for offering me this opportunity and ability to complete my Masters Degree.

ABSTRACT

Chapter 1 is an introduction to the study. It consists of the research problem, rationale of the study significance of the study, methodologies, definition of concepts, etc.

Chapter 2 deals with literature review. That is what different theoretical lexicographers say about sublexical and multilexical items in dictionaries.

Chapter 3 deals with the treatment of sublexical items. It evaluates Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries in terms of the presentation of sublexical items. This chapter emphasises the fact that traditional lexicography employs a word-based approach where only words were treated as macrostructural elements. It also argues that traditional lexicography should be replaced by lexicon - based approach where sublexical items are seen as lemmata in dictionaries. This approach could lead users to retrieve the required semantic information.

Chapter 4 deals with the treatment of multilexical lexical items. Tshivenda language possesses multilexical lexical items such as group prepositions, fixed expressions, etc. In this chapter, it is argued that these items are fully - fledged members of the Tshivenda lexicon and that they should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary as multilexical lemmata.

Chapter 5 gives the conclusion of the study. This chapter indicates that the lexicon-based approach to lexicography is a modern lexicography that regards lexical sublexical and multilexical elements as equal members of the lexicon and also as possible candidates to be included in a macrostructure of a dictionary. This lexicography is against a word-based approach to dictionary compilation. In this chapter recommendations of the study are given.

CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Sublexical lexical items are items that are smaller than words. Most of these items are productive in word-formation processes and they constitute part of stems and affixes. Prefixal and suffixal morphemes are examples of affixes. They are added to the roots or stems in word-formation processes.

e.g. **vhu-** a prefixal morpheme indicating respect.

Multilexical lexical items are items that consist of more than one word. The combination of words is always a unit and should always be treated likewise in a dictionary

e.g. **muthumufuku**- young person.

Sublexical and multilexical lexical items are very important in any language. Sublexical lexical items such as prefixes and suffixes are important as they play a role in word-forming processes. Multilexical lexical items are also important as they are members of lexicon that convey meanings like any other lexical item in a language.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries do not include sublexical and multilexical elements as macrostructural elements. The macrostructure of a dictionary should reflect the lexicon of the language. The problem with Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries is that they only include words (lexical items) as macrostructural elements whilst sublexical and multilexical lexical items are not treated in those dictionaries.

According to Gouws (1991:76), sublexical lexical items contain a substantial number of items smaller than words, including suffixes, combining forms and stems. He

stresses that a dictionary has to give an account of these items but their limited occurrence as components of complexes and compounds must be recorded.

Gouws (1991) explains that although multiword lexical items consist of more than one word, they should be regarded as single lexical items. Therefore these items should be included in the macrostructure of dictionaries as multilexical lemmata. Dictionaries have in the past used a word-based approach where sublexical and multilexical lexical items were not regarded as lemmata. The theory of lexicography requires that sublexical and multilexical lexical items be lemmatised and treated as independent lemmata in the macrostructure of dictionaries. Instead of a word-based approach, a lexicon-based approach to the selection of macrostructural elements is promoted. Defying the traditional word-based approach, the status of sublexical and multilexical elements is recognised as separate lexical items in the lexicon-approach. Adhering to a word-based approach, Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries only include members of the lexicon that are lexical elements as lemmas. No sublexical or multilexical members of the lexicon are selected as macrostructural elements.

In Van Warmelo's Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionary (1989), many sublexical and multilexical lexical items are not treated. Let us look at the following treatment in this dictionary (1989:357):

(2)**thoho**- head – **ya guyo**- bald head
 thoho- (kar.shoko) Vervet Monkey, Blue Ape
 thohole- maize grain from which the testa has been removed by
 pounding (**-tohola**) in a mortar.
 thoho ya thoho- it is something confusing,
 difficult to express.

The above macrostructural ordering does not have the treatment of the lexical items **thoho ya mudi** and **thoho ya tshikolo**. Adopting a lexicon-based approach in lexicography, these items should have been lemmatised in the dictionary because they are important and also convey meaning just like any lexical item in Tshivenda lexicon. The multilexical lexical item **thoho ya tshikolo** is frequently used in

Tshivenda and if it is not treated in a dictionary, then the target user will not know what the word “principal” means in Tshivenda. In the same dictionary, the sublexical lexical items are not treated. The following treatment (1989:372) illustrates this point:

(3) **vhuaawela** - resting place

vhuhulwane - big, adult, important .

As we can see, the sublexical lexical item, **vhu-** was not treated in this dictionary. Dictionary users want to know the occurrence of this sublexical item in Tshivenda. Their knowledge of this item in the target language will assist them to use it effectively. These Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries are not user-friendly because sublexical and multilexical lexical items were not treated as macrostructural elements. The word-based approach dominated these dictionaries and this approach has not assisted dictionary users to retrieve the required information. That is, due to the fact that these dictionaries contained only words as macrostructural elements, dictionary users were failed because when they searched for the meaning of sublexical and multilexical elements, they, unfortunately, couldn't find these elements. The fact that sublexical lexical items are bound morphemes does not mean that they must be excluded from the dictionary as part of macrostructural elements. These elements must be treated in a dictionary like any other item in Tshivenda language.

1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1 THE AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to evaluate Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries with regard to the macrostructural presentation of sublexical and multilexical lexical items.

The aim of the study will be achieved if the following questions will be answered:

- Are sublexical and multilexical lexical items important in a lexicon of a language?

- If they are important, why can't lexicographers treat them in their dictionaries?
- What is the appropriate method of treating or lemmatising these items?
- Will dictionary users be able to retrieve semantic information regarding these items if they form part of macrostructural elements in a dictionary?

1.3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify possible methods on how to systematically treat sublexical and multilexical lexical items in bilingual dictionaries.
- To assist lexicographers to be able to differentiate between word-based and lexicon-based approach in lexicography.
- To distinguish between sublexical and multilexical lexical items as important members of a lexicon that should be accorded macrostructural status in Tshivenda dictionaries.
- To determine some criteria that will assist dictionary compilers to compile user-friendly dictionaries lexicographers and to assist students to know that compounds and morphemes are very important in a language.

1.4 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

This research has been highlighted by Afrikaans and English theoretical lexicographers and this has never been done in any African language. I want to fill this gap because there is a need to produce a dictionary that would represent all items in Tshivenda lexicon. The study will not be a duplication of any work done before. Instead, it will be an addition to the theory of knowledge in this field. That is, the study will become a valuable contribution to African language lexicography.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Tshivenda has in the past been regarded as one of the unofficial languages. The language has now been accorded official status. To be truly official, Tshivenda language also needs to be developed and this should also be done through lexicography. Given that a study of this nature has never been done for this language, it will contribute to the development of lexicographers, language experts, linguists, translators and terminologists to understand compounds and morphemes further. With this study, dictionary users will retrieve semantic information regarding sublexical and multilexical lexical items in their language.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

There are different methods employed in the study of lexicography. In order to gain more information, the researcher will use the following methodologies that are viewed as most appropriate.

1.6.1 Secondary Research Method

Secondary sources of information are summaries of information gathered from primary sources. This includes translation, summaries and reviews of research, encyclopaedias, articles, abstracts, guide books and other publications containing factual information, commentaries and so on.

This means that the secondary research method will be used in this study. Special attention will be given to lexicography texts that are relevant to the study of sublexical and multilexical lexical items.

1.6.2 Textual Analysis

This is an analytical method of looking into written texts of other people. Bilingual dictionaries will be analysed to achieve the aim of the study. Dictionaries that are

going to be analysed are available Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries. Where possible, articles on these dictionaries will be evaluated and corrected.

1.7 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are no scholars who have undertaken the study on treatment of sublexical and multilexical lexical items in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries. Those who highlighted the problem of sublexical and multilexical lexical items in dictionaries are Gouws and Prinsloo (1997), Gouws (1991), Gouws (1989b) and Mphahlele (2001).

1.7.1 Gouws and Prinsloo (1997)

According to Gouws and Prinsloo (1997:46), the first step towards the improvement of the lexicographic standard for African languages must be to do the groundwork right. According to these authors, dictionaries are instruments of linguistic and communicative empowerment and therefore lexicographers have to make sure that their intended target users receive optimal linguistic information. They say that the traditional word-based approach should be replaced by a broader lexicon-based approach. This means that a lexicon-based approach to lexicography is user-friendly as it enables them (users) to get the required information.

1.7.2 Gouws (1991)

Gouws (1991:76) says that a lexicon contains a substantial number of items smaller than words including affixes, combining forms and stems.

Gouws stresses that many of sublexical lexical items are productive in word-forming processes and constitute a part of the active lexicon of a standard language, and that dictionaries have to give an account of these items but their limited occurrence as components of complexes and compounds must be recorded. The inclusion of sublexical and multilexical lexical items is very important to dictionary users of any language. Tshivenda dictionary users are also no exception.

1.7.3 Gouws (1989b)

According to Gouws (1989b:24) not only words but also sublexical and multilexical elements should be included in a dictionary as macrostructural elements. With regard to this, he stresses that a lexicon-based approach to lexicography requires a new selection of macrostructural elements as well as a change in structuring of dictionary articles. This means that dictionary articles should be restructured so that sublexical and multilexical elements could form part of macrostructure of a dictionary.

1.7.4 Mphahlele (2001)

Mphahlele (2001:1) says that dictionaries have in the past used a word-based approach where sublexical and multilexical lexical items were not regarded as lemmata. Metalexicography as a sub-discipline of lexicography requires that sublexical and multilexical lexical items be lemmatised and treated as independent lemmata in the macrostructure of dictionaries. One of the challenges to compiling better and user-oriented Northern Sotho monolingual dictionaries is to treat sublexical and multilexical lexical items as macrostructural elements.

1.7.5 Mphahlele (2003)

According to Mphahlele (2003:63), just like other languages Northern Sotho consists of multilexical items such as collocations, fixed expressions, complexes, compounds, group prepositions, etc. He says that as independent and fully-fledged members of the lexicon, these items should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary as multilexical lemmata. According to this author, when treating multilexical lexical items, the lexicographer of the Northern Sotho monolingual dictionary is confronted with quite a number of problems and challenges. Firstly, the lexicographer does not know whether compound words should be treated in the articles of their headwords or in the macrostructure as multilexical lemmata. Secondly, there is the question of whether to include a collocation in full or whether one component of a collocation should be included in the macrostructure as a headword. Thirdly, Mphahlele (2003)

contends that the lexicographer does not know whether fixed expressions should be included in full in the macrostructure of a standard, general or special dictionary.

This means that the treatment of sublexical and multilexical lexical items in dictionaries is quite a challenge to many lexicographers. To achieve the aim and objectives of this study, the researcher will use the literature reviewed above.

1.8 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

1.8.1 AFFIX

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:64) affixes are prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfixes that are bound morphemes. This is to say that an affix can be attached to a root or stem of a word. The following is an example of affixes in Tshivenda words:

(4)**Tshi-** as in **Tshikoloni**. Here the affix “Tshi” appears as a prefix
-ni as in **Tshikoloni**. The affix -ni appears as a suffix.

1.8.2 BOUND MORPHEME

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:43) bound morphemes are morphemes that cannot occur unattached. Prefixes and suffixes are examples of bound morphemes.

(5)e.g. **mu-shu-mi** (worker) as in ‘mushumi’
mu-sidz-ana (a girl) as in ‘musidzana’.

The three morphemes mu-, shu- mi are bound morphemes that cannot function unattached independently.

1.8.3 CIRCUMFIXES

Fromkin and Rodman (1993:45) say circumfixes are morphemes which are attached to a root or stem morpheme both initially and finally, and that circumfixes are sometimes called discontinuous morphemes. Examples of these circumfixes are:

(6) Declarative

chokm + a	he is good
lakn + a	it is yellow
pall + i	it is hot
tiww+ i	he opens (it)

(7) Negative

ik + chokm + o	he isn't good
ik + lakn + o	it isn't yellow
ik + pall + o	it isn't hot
ik + tiww + o	he doesn't open (it)

1.8.4 COMPOUNDING

According to Hartmann (1993:25) compounding is a word-formation process in which two or more simple words are joined to form a new word with a single meaning. Hartmann's definition does not differ with that of Mphahlele (2002).

According to Mphahlele (2002:6) compounding is a word-forming process whereby two or more free morphemes combine to form a word, compounds, new concepts often changing word-class.

The following is an example of compounding:

(8) **vhukavhamabufho** (airport).

1.8.5 COMPOUNDS

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:53) new words may be formed by stringing together other words to create compound words.

Mphahlele (2002:7) stresses that compounds are terms formed by combining two or more free morphemes to a unit with a unitary accent. This definition does not differ much with Hartmann's.

Hartmann (1993:26) says compounds are terms formed by joining two or more simple terms. The following are examples of compounds in Tshivenda:

(9) **mudzulatshidulo** (chairperson)
mudzula- (noun)
tshidulo (noun).

This means that the lexical item “mudzulatshidulo” is the combination of two free morphemes “mudzula” and “tshidulo”.

(10) **Vhukavhamabufho** – a compound consisting of
the lexical items *vhukavha* and *mabufho*.

1.8.7 FREE MORPHEME

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:47) a free morpheme is a single morpheme which can occur unattached.

1.8.8 HEADWORDS

According to Svensén (1993:35) headword refers to words which begin a dictionary entry and are printed in bold or semi-bold type.

The following words are example of headwords, used by Muloiwa (1982:20):

(11)-**hangwela** (forgive)
-hani? (how)
-hanisa (prohibit, forbid)
-hanya (live; escape with one's life).

1.8.9 LEMMA

Mphahlele (2002:23) says lemma is any bolded lexical, sublexical or multilexical unit that appears as a treatment unit in the vertical position of a dictionary. This means that a lemma and a headword are synonymous and refer to the treatment unit in a dictionary.

Marole (1954) used the following words as lemmas:

(12) cling (v.) u nambatela, u farelela

clip (v.) u gera nga tshigero

cloak (n.) nguvho, badzhi khulu

1.8.10 LEMMATISATION

According to Mphahlele (2002:24) lemmatisation is the ordering or inclusion of sublexical, lexical and multilexical lexical items in a macro-structure of a dictionary as treatment units (lemmata). The following may be examples of sublexical, lexical and multilexical lexical items that can be lemmatised in Tshivenda dictionary.

(13) ei- (sublexical) (do continually)

-adza (lexical) (outstretched)

-dowedza (lexical) (to accustom oneself)

khadzimutavha (multilexical) (springhare)

mudzulaphanda (multilexical) (chairman)

1.8.11 LEXICAL UNIT

SALEX (1997): lexical unit is one word used in a specific sense; for an explanation of the use of the term in this course.

(14)e.g. **mudavhi** (ground)

lufo (spoon).

1.8.12 LEXICON

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:509) the lexicon is the component of the grammar containing speakers' knowledge about morphemes and words, etc. According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993) a lexicon is a speaker's mental dictionary.

According to Mphahlele (2002:28) lexicon is the stock of all lexical, sublexical and multilexical units in a language.

1.8.13 LEXICON BASED LEXICOGRAPHY

According to Mphahlele (2002:28) lexicon-based lexicography is a modern lexicography that regards sublexical, lexical and multilexical elements as equal members of the lexicon and as possible candidates to be included in a macrostructure of a dictionary as lemmata without adopting any word-bias approach. According to Mphahlele (2002), lexicon-based approach is fully opposed to word - based approach to lexicography.

1.8.14 MACROSTRUCTURE

According to Svensén (1993:23) macrostructure is the relative arrangement of the dictionary entries. Svensén's definition is not comprehensive enough.

According to SALEX (1997): macrostructure is the large-scale or overall structure of a dictionary, determined by such considerations as the order of entries included as headwords.

According to Mphahlele (2002:29) macrostructure is a list of alphabetical and non-alphabetical usually bold lemmata (treatment units) in a vertical position on the left hand side of the dictionary page. Mphahlele's definition appear to be comprehensive enough e.g. Muloiwa (1982:22) used the following words as macrostructures:

(15)-ka pick fruit; pluck flowers; draw water
-kadzinga/-hadzinga roast (in container)

-kaidza rebuke; scold, reprimand, warn
-kakamela stutter, stammer
-kakarika -kakatika struggle; hurry to and
fro
-kala weigh
-kalaha age; grow old (men only)
kale long ago
kamara (dzi-) room
-kamba intoxicate
-kambisa intoxicate someone
-kambiwa be drunk
-kambwa drunk (to be drunk)
-kana harvest, reap
kana of / or, whether.

The words written in bold are part of the macrostructural elements.

1.8.15 MAIN ENTRY

According to Mphahlele (2002:29) main entry is an entry containing comprehensive treatment (definition) or full explanation and a cross-reference to other entries, usually as a bold word opposed to a sub-entry.

1.8.16 MICROSTRUCTURE

According to Svensén (1993: 23) the microstructure means the structure of the individual dictionary entries: their various parts and the mutual relationship of these. Svensén continues that microstructure also includes the typographical conventions used (various type-faces and type-sizes, punctuation, and special symbols).

SALEX (1997): mentions that microstructure of the individual dictionary entry consists of an ordered series of data type.

According to Mphahlele (2002:31) microstructure is any linguistic information that comes immediately after the lemma in the article of a dictionary that reflects pronunciation, circumflex, labeling, definitions, usage examples, etc. about the lemma. The following words are examples of microstructures used by Muloiwa (1982:22):

- (16) **ka** pick fruit; pluck flowers; draw water
-kadzinga/-hadzinga roast (in container)
-kaidza rebuke; scold, reprimand, warn
-kakamela stutter, stammer
-kakarika -kakatika struggle; hurry to and fro
-kala weigh
-kalaha age; grow old (men only)
kale long ago
kamara (dzi-) room
-kamba intoxicate
-kambisa intoxicate someone
-kambiwa be drunk
-kambwa drunk (to be drunk)
-kana harvest, reap
kana of / or, whether

The words that come after the macrostructure are part of microstructural elements.

1.8.17 MULTI-LEXICAL ITEMS

According to Mphahlele (2002:32) a multilexical unit is a lexical unit which consists of more than one word. This includes compounds, collocations, idioms and proverbs, etc.

According to Hartmann (1993:97) a multiword expression is a phrase consisting of two or more words functioning as a single lexeme. According to Hartmann (1993) the constituents are relatively stable and, if used idiomatically, their combined meaning is more or other than the sum of the parts, e.g. The following were used as examples

collocation, compound term, direct entry, idiom, inverted entry, permutation, and phrasal verb.

1.8.18 PREFIX

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993:514) a prefix is a bound morpheme which occurs before a root or stem of a word, an affix which is attached to the beginning of a morpheme or word.

- (17) **mu-** in **muthu** (person)
vh- in **vhuthu** (human quality, humanity).

1.8.19 SUBLEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS

According to Gouws (1991) sublexical lexical items are words or stems that form part of a lexical item but cannot function as a lexical item. According to Gouws (1991) the lexicon contains a substantial number of items smaller than a word -including affixes, combining forms and stems. Gouws stresses that many of these items are productive in word-forming process and constitute a part of the active lexicon of the standard language:

18 **Mu-**
Vhu-
Tshi-
- ni.

Mphahlele (2002:45) says that sublexical lexical items are lexical units smaller than a word that can play an important role in word formation process. Prefixes and suffixes are examples of multilexical lexical items.

1.9.20 SUFFIX

Fromkin and Rodman (1993:518) argue that a suffix is a bound morpheme which occurs after the root or stem of a word. According to Fromkin and Rodman (1993) suffix is attached to the end of a morpheme or word.

(19) **-isa** as in **da[^]lisa** (become full)

dala +isa
^

- ana as in **lingana** (be equal) ling + ana

The Tshivenda suffixes, “ isa” and “ana” as attached to some words.
^

1.8. 21. WORD-BASED LEXICOGRAPHY

According to Mphahlele (2002:52) word-based lexicography is a lexicographic tradition that regards words as the only macrostructural elements without considering other members of the lexicon such as sublexical and multilexical elements to be included in a macrostructure as lemmata.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

The aim of this section is to review some of the important literature that is related to this study. This researcher will use some of the literature reviewed below to support their arguments.

2.1 ZGUSTA (1967)

Zgusta (1967) gives a careful analysis of the diagnostic means of distinguishing multilexical forms from free combinations of words. The author says that if single-word lexical items are to be included in dictionaries as lexical lemmas, then multiword lexical items should be included as well.

2.2 BAUER (1983)

According to Bauer (1983:213) combining forms usually function as affixes but appear to be distinct from affixes in some cases. He continued by saying that combinings form derived from Latin and Greek (*e.g.*, *electro-hydro-*, *-naut*, *-phile*) are restricted to morphologically complex structures and that they cannot function as independent words though there is no doubting their status as lexical items. Bauer continues that these lemmas should be marked to show their restricted occurrence. This means that combining forms should always be marked in dictionaries to show their functions.

2.3 GOUWS (1989b)

Gouws (1989b:66-67) says that the selection of macrostructural elements to be included in a dictionary may not be done at random but should be motivated linguistically and that in his choice of macrostructural elements the lexicographer therefore has to be well acquainted with current linguistic trends and approaches. This means that the lexicographer should have

a sound knowledge of linguistics so that he/she will be able to treat the lexicon of a language in a successful way.

Gouws (1989b) continues that microstructural elements of a dictionary have to be items from the lexicon of the specific language and that the Afrikaans lexicon can be subclassified into three categories: lexical, sublexical, and multilexical elements. The words of a language are treated in traditional dictionaries. According to Gouws (1989b) this approach compels the lexicographer to favour the inclusion of words in his dictionary. This means that macrostructural elements should reflect the lexicon of the language.

Therefore not only words (lexical elements) but also sublexical and multilexical elements should be included as macrostructural elements in dictionaries. Gouws (1989b) argues that instead of a word-based approach, a lexicon-based approach to the selection of macrostructural elements is promoted and that defying the traditional word bias approach, the status of sublexical and multilexical elements are recognised as separate lexical items in the lexical approach. This means that if the traditional word-bias approach is avoided, then the dictionary will display a lexicon-based approach that treats sublexical, multilexical and lexical items equally.

According to Gouws (1989b), the category *setsetel* in Afrikaans does not only include *voorssetsetel* (prepositions) The word *setsetel* is a superordinate and has four hyponymys: *voorssetsetel* (prepositions), *agtersetsetel* (postposition), *groepssetsetel* (group preposition), and *sirkumposisie* (circumposition). Gouws (1989b) gives examples of these subcategories:

- (1) *deur die wêreld* (through the world)
- die wêreld deur* (throughout the world)
- in plaas van geld* (instead of money)
- tot hier toe* (thus far).

Gouws (1989b) stresses that all members of these categories are items of the Afrikaans lexicon and qualify for inclusion as lemmas in a dictionary; and that adhering to a word-based approach, Afrikaans dictionaries only include members of this category that are lexical elements, as lemmas without selecting sublexical members. No sublexical or multilexical members of this category are treated as macrostructural elements.

Regarding circumposition Gouws (1989b) stresses that circumpositions are multilexical elements and consist of a fixed combination of a preposition and postposition. He (Gouws) stresses that this combination is used always as a single unit and should be treated likewise in a dictionary. This means that circumpositions should be treated in the macrostructure of a dictionary.

Gouws (1989b) argues that Afrikaans prepositions often occur in prepositional phrases that are fixed expressions. According to him these fixed expressions are also multilexical elements of the Afrikaans lexicon, and they should also be accommodated as macrostructural elements in dictionaries and they should be given independent lemmatic status.

2.4 GOUWS (1991)

2.4.1 Sublexical lexical items

2.4.1.1 Affixes and combining forms

Gouws (1991:77) stresses that affixes constitute an important component of the lexicon and that the user of word-based dictionaries is accustomed to a sound treatment of this category of lexical items. Gouws (1991) continues that combining forms have a frequent and productive occurrence in English. This means that affixes and combining forms should be included in dictionaries as they play an important role in word-formation processes.

2.4.1.2 Stems

With regard to stems, Gouws (1991:77-78) says that affixes and stems, e.g., *dis-*, *-ly*; *-honest*, *present-*, are the most productive components in word-formation processes, stems being used in both complexes and compounds. According to this author, such sublexical lemmas in English dictionaries are given limited attention. He argues that Afrikaans descriptive dictionaries, on the other hand, contain an extensive collection of stems included as sublexical lemmas. Gouws (1991) continues that in Afrikaans,

the stem *skoon-* is used in compounds like *skoonpa* ‘father in law’, *skoonma* ‘mother in law’, etc. and that it has a meaning lexicalized in English construction as ‘in law’. He argues that the proper way to give a satisfactory account of such a stem is to enter it as a sublexical lemma. This means that sublexical lemmas should be found in the macrostructure of bilingual dictionaries. In Tshivenda stems are also found e.g.

(2) **shumisisa-** force to work

-**remisa-** chop

- **shumela-** work for

- **vhoniwa** be seen.

Gouws (1991) stresses that the existence of two variant forms of a lexical item does not necessarily compel the lemmatization of both variants. With regard to variants, Gouws (1991) says that the word variants should be regarded as neutral forms and should be included as lexical lemmata. According to him, there is a semantic relation between the word variants and the stem; e.g., the word *hoender* ‘chicken’ has a stem variant *hoender-* as in *hoenderhaan* ‘cock/rooster. Gouws argues that to include the meaning of the stem variant of such a lexical item would simply duplicate the semantic information given in the entry for the word variant; the status of the lexical item as a stem can be specified by including representative compounds. This means that duplication of semantic information should be avoided in bilingual dictionaries.

Gouws (1991) continued that although this principle applies to most lexical items with dual status, semantic values of some stem variants cannot be accounted as the entry of the word variants.

2.4.2 Multiword items

Gouws (1991:78-79) argues that although multiword lexical items consist of more than one word, they should be regarded as single lexical items. With regard to multiword lexical items Gouws (1991:79) continues that opting for the inclusion of multilexical lemmas, the Afrikaans lexicographer confronts considerable subtypological variety, including loan word groups, e.g., *bona fide*, *ex libris*, *pièce de résistance*; idioms and fixed expressions: discontinuous items, e.g. the correlative coordinators *of...of hetsy...hetsy* (both meaning ‘either...or’, *nog...nog*

‘neither...nor’; group prepositions, e.g. *ten behoeve van* ‘in aid of’, *met betrekking tot* ‘regarding’; and certain particle verbs, e.g., *te berde bring* ‘to broach a subject’, *om die bos lei* ‘to deceive someone’, etc. Gouws argues that loan word groups are usually treated as multilexical lemmas because they are perceived as unfamiliar units.

2.4.2.1 Discontinuous items

Regarding discontinuous items Gouws (1991:79) stresses that the collection of discontinuous lexical items in Afrikaans display its own variety of morphological and syntactic items. He says that morphologically discontinuous items (affixes with a prefixed and a suffixed component) have a simultaneous and interdependent occurrence and should be entered as multilexical lemmas. Examples are *ge-...-te* in ‘*gebergte*’ ‘mountain chain’ *gedermte* ‘entrails’; and *on-...-s* in *onverhoeds* ‘unexpectedly’ and *ongesiens* ‘unseen’. Gouws (1991) says that “to include a discontinuous item in the entry of a lexical lemma often obscures important semantic facts. According to Gouws correlative coordinators are always included in the entry of a simplex coordinator, and being more emphatic (emphasis is a semantic value), they differ on semantic grounds from simplex coordinators. He argues that correlative coordinators should be treated as multilexical items. This means that discontinuous items should be included in the macrostructure of the dictionary.

2.4.2.2 Multiword particle verbs

Gouws (1991:80-81) says that multiword particle verbs are single lexical items that should be treated as multilexical lemmas. Although the lemmatization of these items should not present the lexicographer with problems, the word-based approach impedes the successful treatment of these items and compels the lexicographer to discriminate between one-word and multiword particle verbs. According to Gouws (1991) adhering to the word-based approach, traditional lexicographers do not accommodate the multiword particle verbs as multilexical lemmas. Not granted lemma status, they are accorded only limited lexicographical treatment. Therefore, multiword particle verbs should be included in a dictionary as macrostructural elements.

2.4.2.3 Group prepositions

Gouws (1991:83) says that the current approach in Afrikaans dictionaries is not to include group prepositions as lemmata, but rather to include them in the entry of a selected headword. With regard to this, Gouws (1991:83) says that this procedure gives no evidence of consistency or of any well-defined lexicographical or linguistic principle governing their incorporation. The group preposition *aan die hand van* ‘on the basis of /in view of’ is included in the entry for the lemma *hand*.

Gouws says “now, a group preposition has two immediate constituents, i.e., a preposition and a preposition. It is clear that the component *hand* in the group preposition is not a noun but a part of the pre - preposition. In the entry for the noun *hand* the group preposition is usually treated as a collocation. But no indication is given of either its status as an independent lexical item or its part of speech”. The word-based approach is, blind to the existence of lexical items larger than words, and also denies a representation of the real status and linguistic features of such an item. This means that group prepositions should be given lemmatic status and should be treated as independent lemmata in the macrostructure of dictionaries.

2.4.2.4 Idioms

Gouws (1991:84) says that idioms and other fixed expressions can not always be accommodated in the same way as lexical lemmas. Idioms can be alphabetically fixed, e.g., *charity begins at home or in for a penny, in for a pound*. Such lexical item can be included as a multilexical lemma even though a dictionary will accumulate many such lemmas in the vicinity of prepositions and articles. According to Gouws (1991) in this position, other pronouns, nouns or names may be used: *her ears are burning, John's ears are burning, etc.*, etc. So, the alphabetization of these items is problematic.

Gouws (1991:85) argues that multiword lexical items do not always require a complete lexicographical treatment. In the case of self-explanatory multiword items, the item may be lemmatized without any further information. This means that multiword lexical items can be lemmatized without any further information.

2.5 FEINAUER (1997)

Feinauer (1997:27) says that dictionaries generally treat subword lexical items more satisfactorily than multiword lexical lemmas and that in form, subword lexical items resemble words more closely than multiword lexical items. She argues that some stems are used both lexically and sublexically, the only difference being the hyphen attached to the sublexical stem. Therefore this implies that multiword lexical lemmas should be given equal status to subword lexical items.

According to Feinauer (1997:28), sublexical stems, especially techno-stems, are more consistently lemmatized than affixes, and in particular, suffixes. Feinauer (1997) continues that this could be ascribed to two factors: stems resemble words more closely than affixes, and since many of the techno-stems are of Latin and Greek origin, they require elucidation and that as a result of the closer resemblance between words and stems, one would expect that if discrepancies in the microstructural treatment of words and suffixes occur, the inconsistencies between that of words and stems would be lessened.

2.6 MPHAHLELE (2001)

With regard to the macrostructural elements of a dictionary Mphahlele (2001:96) says that the choice of macrostructural elements to be included in a dictionary may not be done at random but this should be determined on a linguistic basis. According to Mphahlele (2001) the traditional lexicography employs a word-based approach where only words were chosen as macrostructural elements. He continues to say that a word-based approach compels the lexicographer to favour the inclusion of words in his/her dictionary. Other elements (sublexical and multilexical items) are mostly ignored. This means that sublexical and multilexical lexical elements should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary. He mentions that the macrostructural elements should reflect the lexicon of a language and that not only words, but also sublexical lexical and multilexical lexical elements should be included as macrostructural elements in a dictionary.

2.6.1 Sublexical lexical items

On sublexical lexical items, Mphahlele (2001:97) stresses that a language consists of different kinds of lexical items. According to Mphahlele (2001) these lexical items form a complete lexicon of a language. He mentions that sub-word and multi-word units also function as lexical items. This is also the case in Tshivenda (language) because sublexical items are very important, especially in word-forming processes.

Mphahlele (2001) says, “ the problem with traditional lexicography is that it does not include or enter sublexical and multilexical elements as macrostructural entries. Instead these elements are entered in a microstructure as additional entries. This approach displays a word- based because it regards words as macrostructural elements (lemmata) and sub-word and multilexical lexical items as microstructural elements”.

This approach does not allow a user to achieve communicative success because some of the important members of a lexicon are not treated as lemmata. This means that words are not the only lexical items that should be included in the macrostructure of dictionaries, but also, subword and multiword units should be treated as macrostructural entries in dictionaries. The word-based approach confronts a dictionary user with a serious problem. Dictionary users want to learn the lexicon of a target language, so if some of the members (sub-lexical and multilexical lexical items) of a lexicon are not treated as lemmata, a user cannot achieve communicative success in the target language. In order to learn about the target language, a user must know the meanings of sublexical and multilexical items.

This implies that communicative success can be achieved if sublexical and multilexical lexical items are treated in the macrostructure of dictionaries in Tshivenda.

Mphahlele (2001:98) continues that most of the sublexical items are productive in word-forming processes and they constitute a part of the active lexicon of the language. According to Mphahlele (2001) sublexical lexical items are often called stems or affixes.

To validate his arguments, Mphahlele (2001:98) gave the following examples of English sublexical lexical items:

- (3) Dis - (as in **disallow**)
- Dia- (as in **diameter, diabase**)
- ly (as in **annually**)
- ed (as in **performed**)
- ence (as in **existence**)
- tion as in **education**)
- ing (as in **doing, ending**)
- age (**percentage**)
- ance (**assistance**)
- graphy (**bibliography**)

According to Mphahlele (2001:98) these sublexical elements should be entered in the macrostructure of English translation dictionaries because they form part of the English lexicon. The implication here is that each sublexical element should be given lemma status in a dictionary. This should also be the case in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries.

Regarding the translation equivalents of sublexical lexical items, Mphahlele (2001) warns: “If lexicographers see that particular sublexical lexical items do not have appropriate equivalents in the target language, they may enter a word which is close to an item so that a user will be able to retrieve the required information. The inclusion of a word which is closest in meaning with a source sublexical item is better than leaving a semantic comment empty. This surrogate word will serve an important purpose. Lexicographers must know that without specific sublexical lexical items, there won’t be meaningful word formation in a language. Sublexical lexical items that are included as translation equivalent in the paradigm will enable dictionary users to achieve communicative fluency. There is also a need for contextual guidance in the translation equivalent paradigm of this kind. If a sublexical element is intranslatable, a relevant surrogate word or information should be supplied”. This means that lexicographers must be careful when giving the translation equivalents in the target language to avoid the distortion of the meaning.

Mphahlele (2001:99) gives the following example to show how sublexical items may be treated in a bilingual dictionary:

- (4) **dis-**, on- (*onbekwaam, ongemak*); **ont-**(*ontnugter, ontbind, ontken; af-(afkeer)*).

Mphahlele argues that a dictionary user will see that the English sublexical item, **dis-** is equivalent to Afrikaans sublexical items **on-**, **ont-** and **af**. In this case a user can achieve communicative success because there is semantic resemblance between the lemma and its translation equivalent. This is true because even contextual guidance have been included to assist the dictionary user. Words that are written in brackets will guide a user to see the usage information of translation equivalents. He continued by saying that this is user-friendly lexicography and our dictionary compilers should have taken efforts to address sublexical elements in the macrostructures of their dictionaries. A word-based approach is detrimental to lexicography because it does not present sublexical lexical items as lemmata in a dictionary.

Mphahlele (2001) includes articles from Kritzinger and Steyns' bilingual dictionary that display a word based approach.

(5) **dirty-** bevuil, bemors, besmeer

disable- onbekwaam maak; ongeskik maak; vermink; onbruikbaar]

disabuse-...

disaccustom----...

According to Mphahlele (2001) if we look at the above article, we can see that the sublexical item **dis-** has not been given independent status as a lemma. Mphahlele argues that this treatment impedes the target user's chance to retrieve the required information. Between the articles of **dirty** and **disable**, Kritzinger and Steyn (1970) should have entered the sublexical lexical item **dis-** as a macrostructural element. This means that the sublexical item **dis-** should have been ordered before the lemma **disable**. To illustrate this argument, Mphahlele gives the following articles as a correction:

(6) **dirty-**.....

dis-.....

disable-....

According to Mphahlele (2001) in Kritzinger and Steyn's dictionary, all words that begin with the sublexical item **dis-** have been awarded status as lemma. Unfortunately, the

sublexical item itself has not been given lemma status. He argues that if this item does not appear in the macrostructure, a dictionary user cannot know its equivalent in the target language. For people to communicate successfully, a word-bias approach should be abolished in dictionaries. This traditional approach must be replaced by lexicon-based lexicography which regards sublexical lexical items as fully-fledged lexical items.

Mphahlele (2001:100) stresses that as a sublexical lexical item, **-tion** should be seen as a fully-fledged lexical item. This means that it must be entered in the macrostructure of a dictionary and given complete lexicographic treatment. If this item is not included as a lemma, its equivalent in the target language will not appear in a dictionary. Ultimately, people who are consulting a dictionary will not be able to speak good Afrikaans because of a lack of enough information regarding the language. To further illustrate his arguments, Mphahlele (2001) presented the following example from Kritzinger and Steyn:

(7) **tiny-...**
tip-...

This shows that the sublexical lexical item **-tion** has not been entered as a lemma. Alphabetically, this item should have been entered immediately after the lemma **tiny** in the vertical position (macrostructural position). Mphahlele (2001:100) says that the following example would have assisted a user to obtain communicative success:

(8) **tiny-...**
-tion *-ing(inligting; mededeling; stuiting);-sie*
(informasie;inflammasie);-heid erstokheid;
geneigdheid)
tip...

Mphahlele (2001:101) argues that this treatment is user-friendly because a user is able to deduce the sublexical lexical items **-ing**, **-sie**, and **-heid** are equivalent to the English sublexical item, **-tion**. He contends that it is also displayed in the above article that these Afrikaans sublexical lexical items cannot replace each other in word forming processes. This is indicated by items having been separated by semicolons. The semantic comments have also been supplied with contextual guidance for each sublexical item. This is to say that all information that a user needs is found in the translation equivalent paradigm.

Mphahlele (2001:101) continues that sublexical lexical items must not appear in the microstructure of other lemmata. This means that they must be seen as fully-fledged members of a lexicon and that they should not be included in the articles of other lexical lemmas that represent single word lexical items. He continues that the ordering of sublexical lexical items in the semantic comment is defying the status of these items. Single words and sublexical lexical elements must be treated equally in a dictionary. If sublexical lexical items are ignored in a dictionary, such a dictionary does not represent or deal with the entire lexicon of a language but deal with a part of the lexicon which cannot satisfy all the needs of the target users. This means that single words and sublexical lexical elements must be treated equally in Tshivenda bilingual dictionaries.

According to Mphahlele (2001:101) African languages are different from English and Afrikaans. In the treatment of sublexical lexical items, a lexicographer will see that most sublexical lexical items in English and Afrikaans are intranslatable to African languages. This implies that lexicographers who treat English or Afrikaans together with an African language in a translation dictionary will be confronted with a problem of intranslatability. Mphahlele stresses that this problem of intranslatability of sublexical lexical items should not be seen as an excuse to adopt a word-based approach. There is an option for lexicographers. A surrogate equivalent should be given in the semantic comment so that a user will be able to communicate successfully. The following presentation illustrates Mphahlele's point:

(9)-**ed**; -ile (godile; lahlile); -etše (wetše; nametše).

With regard to this article, Mphahlele (2001) argues that a user will see that in Northern Sotho the affixes **-ile** and **-etše** are nearly equivalent to the English affix **-ed**, which denotes past tense.

2.6.2 Multilexical lexical items

Mphahlele (2001:102-103) stresses that multilexical lexical items are lexical items that consist of more than one word. According to Mphahlele (2001) examples of multilexical lexical items are circumpositions and group prepositions, etc.

Circumpositions are multilexical lexical elements that consist of a fixed combination of a preposition and a postposition. This combination is always used as single unit and should be treated likewise in a dictionary. Circumpositions should be treated as lemmata in the macrostructure of a dictionary.

According to Mphahlele (2001:103) the following multilexical elements are examples of group prepositions in English:

(10) On the basis of, in place of, in spite of, in view of, in accordance with, in consideration of, in relation to, with reference to, with regard to, etc.

Mphahlele (2001:103) stresses that these group prepositions should be presented in the macrostructure of a dictionary. He remarks that in Kritzinger and Steyn's dictionary of 1970 not even a single group preposition has been entered in the macrostructure. The microstructure does not have group prepositions. In other words, group prepositions have been ignored in this dictionary. Tshivenda dictionaries should include group prepositions as headwords.

Mphahlele (2001:103) writes: "Traditional lexicography must be replaced by user-oriented lexicography that sees the demands of target users as a priority. A word-based approach to lexicography should be replaced by modern lexicography that sees sublexical and multilexical lexical elements as fully-fledged lexical items. This is to say that our translation dictionaries should be restructured in such a way that sublexical and multilexical lexical elements are accommodated in the macrostructure". This should also apply in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries.

Mphahlele (2001) says that like other dictionaries, Northern Sotho dictionaries also consist of word-based macrostructures. According to him this approach has not assisted dictionary users to retrieve the required information. Due to the fact that dictionaries contained only words as macrostructural elements, users were failed because they could not find the meanings of sublexical and multilexical items. The fact that sublexical items are bound morphemes does not necessarily mean that they must be excluded from the macrostructures

of dictionaries as independent lemmata. As part of the lexicon, these items should be included in a macrostructure of dictionaries and be accorded comprehensive treatment.

2.7. MPHAHLELE (2003)

Mphahlele (2003:156) stresses the fact that, just like any other language, Northern Sotho has a number of sublexical lexical items that are active in word-forming processes, and that these items should be included in the macrostructure of dictionaries as treatment units (lemmata). He argues that prefixal and suffixal morphemes are examples of affixes. They are added to the roots or stems in the word formation process. This means that prefixal and suffixal morphemes should be included as part of macrostructural elements.

Mphahlele (2003:163) says that just like other languages, Northern Sotho possesses multilexical lexical items such as collocations, fixed expressions, complexes, compounds, group prepositions, etc. He continues that as independent and fully-fledged members of the lexicon, these items should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary as multilexical lemmata. Mphahlele (2003:163) writes: “When treating multilexical lexical items, the lexicographer of Northern Sotho monolingual dictionary is confronted with quite a number of problems and challenges. Firstly, the lexicographer does not know whether compound words should be treated in the articles of their headwords or in the macrostructure as multilexical lemmata. Secondly, whether to include a collocation in full or whether one component of a collocation should be included in the macrostructure as a headword.” Mphahlele (2003) continued that thirdly, the lexicographer does not know whether fixed expressions should be included in full in the macrostructure of a standard, general or special dictionary; or whether these should form part of a glossary in the back matter of the dictionary. This means that the lexicographer should have a knowledge of what elements should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary.

Mphahlele (2003) says that the treatment of multilexical lexical items in the microstructures of other lexical lemmata is word-based and it is detrimental to the effective retrieval of semantic information of the multilexical lexical items. That is, if multiword lexical items such as compounds, collocations and fixed expressions are included in the semantic comment (microstructure) of other lexical items dictionary users would not be able to retrieve their meanings because they would regard any information presented after the

definition of a lexical lemma as extralinguistic. In other words, users would not expect to get the meaning of a compound word in a microstructure of a lexical lemma. Therefore Tshivenda bilingual dictionaries should include compound words, collocations and fixed expressions in their macrostructures.

CHAPTER 3

TREATMENT OF SUBLEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to evaluate Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries in terms of the presentation of sublexical lexical items. This section of the study would like to ascertain whether Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries represent sublexical lemmas in the macrostructure and whether their presentation would enable target users to retrieve the required semantic information.

The traditional lexicography employs a word-based approach where only words were treated on the macrostructural basis. This approach compels the lexicographer to favour the inclusion of words in his dictionary. Not only words, but also sublexical lexical and and multilexical lexical sublexical elements should be included in the macrostructural elements in a dictionary. The word-based approach should be replaced by a lexical based approach. It is the aim of the researcher to see whether a word-based or lexicon-based approach has been used in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries

If Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries entered sublexical and multilexical elements in the microstructures of lemmata as additional entries, then this approach would display a word-based approach because it regards words as lemmata whilst sublexical items and multilexical lexical items as sublemmata in the microstructure of a dictionary. In that case, dictionary users cannot achieve communicative success because sublexical and multilexical lexical items are not entered as lemmata or treatment units.

3.2 TREATMENT OF SUBLEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS

3.2.1 NOUN CLASSES IN TSHIVENDA

There are twenty one noun classes in Tshivenda. Poulos (1990:11) says that the noun in Tshivenda consists of two parts, namely a noun prefix and a noun stem. According to Poulos, by virtue of the form of its prefix, every noun belongs to what has been traditionally called a noun class. Poulos (1990) argues that these classes are each numbered according to the numbering system that is customarily used in the comparative study of the family of languages to which *Venda* belongs. Nouns are classified according to their classes so that they could be distinguishable in a language. According to Ziervogel et al (1972:90) some scholars prefer to divide the class in pairs, singular and plural, under one number whilst other prefer the international numbering. According to Ziervogel et al to prevent confusion of numbers we name the classes according to the prefixes, e.g. the mu-vha - class for international class 1 and 2. Nevertheless when dealing with singular or plural separately each will be called a class by itself.

3.2.1.1 THE NOUN CLASS SYSTEMS IN TSHIVENDA

As already indicated, noun class systems in Tshivenda are grouped in classes. These classes are in singular and plural forms. The following table shows the nouns class system in Tshivenda:

CLASS	PREFIX	EXAMPLE	TRANSLATION
1	mu-	muthu (as in muthu)	person
2	vha-	vhathu (as in vhathu)	people
1a	Ø	Vele	Ms Vele
2b	vho-	vho - Vele	Mrs Vele (as a form of respect)
3	mu-	mulambo	river
4	mi-	milambo	rivers
5	li-	liga	step

6	ma-	maga	steps
7	tshi	tshifhatuwo	face
8	zwi-	zwifhatuwo	faces
9	N-	thoho	head
10	dziN-	(dzi)thoho	heads
11	lu-	lula	intestine
14	vh-	vhula	intestines
15	u-	u gidima	to run
16	fha-	fhasi	down
17	ku-	kudi	small village
18	mu-	mudi	village
20	ku-	kuthu	small thing
21	di-	dithu	monster

Table 1

In Tshivenda some nouns falling under different classes share the same prefix. For example, the Tshivenda noun **mukegulu** (old lady) belongs to noun class 1 because it has the prefix **mu-**. The lexical unit **mubvumo** (thunder) belongs to class 3 and it also has the prefix **mu-**. This means that nouns 1 and 3 share the same prefix.

3.2.1.2 TREATMENT OF NOUN PREFIXES IN TSHIVENDA- ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

The noun class systems are very important in a language and they need to be treated in a dictionary. It is very important for the Tshivenda lexicographer to familiarize himself/herself with these classes. According to Mphahlele (2003:157), the lexicographer of Northern Sotho dictionaries must first of all know the noun class systems in Northern Sotho. This is true of Tshivenda. Mphahlele (2003) says that some of the noun classes share the same prefixal morphemes. In this case, the lexicographer has to make a differentiation in the microstructure so that the user can retrieve the required information. This means that all the occurrences or behaviour of a particular prefix morpheme should be recorded in a dictionary. The treatment of

these prefixes is very important in both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. The latter type of dictionary will be the focus of this study.

Let us see whether Van Warmelo (1989:201) has treated the sublexical lexical item **mu-** as a lemma:

(1)	mpuvhuya	3	(pl. mip)1 the herb Leucas (2) martinicensis (Jacq.) R.Br.2 the herb Acrotome inflata Benth.
	mpwepwepwe	3	(mupw,cf.-pwera, hwere, pheha) Diarrhea (animals, human)
	mu-		(obj. pron. vb pref. cl.1) him, her
	muada		unclean, filthy, slovenly person.

The above presentation shows that Van Warmelo (1989) has treated the noun class prefix **mu-** as a sublexical lexical item in the macrostructure of his bilingual dictionary. This treatment is user-friendly because the dictionary users will be able to retrieve the information they are looking for. That is, he/she (user) will be able to know that the lemma **mu-** is a class 1 noun prefix. This class contains personal nouns only.

Although the prefix **mu-** has been treated in Van Warmelo's dictionary the problem is that its treatment has been abbreviated. The dictionary user (usually a layman) will not be able to get the information in detail because this abbreviation will confuse him/her as he/she may not be familiar with these abbreviations. Abbreviations will serve a purpose only if they have been defined in detail (what they mean) in the front matter of such a dictionary. This is to say that the treatment of the sublexical item **mu-** above should have been in full.

Let us see whether Muloiwa (1982:39) has treated the sublexical lexical item **mu-**:

(2)	mpunga/ mupunga	(<i>gaan:slegs kl mu-</i>
-----	------------------------	----------------------------

muaino (mi-)	<i>/grain:cl mu- only : Plants/ plant: mi-) rys/ rice</i>
mualavhi (vha-)	cf Eng strykwerk/ironing
mualuwa (vha-)	matroos/sailor volwassene, grootmens/adult.

This presentation is not user-friendly. The noun class prefix **mu-** was supposed to be treated between the lemmas **mpunga** and **muaino** in the vertical position of a dictionary. Muloiwa (1982) does not treat prefix **mu-** as a sublexical lexical item in the vertical position and this sublexical lexical item should be given independent lemmatic status because this morpheme is a fully-fledged member of the Tshivenda lexicon. With the above approach, the lexicographer cannot assist the dictionary user to retrieve the required semantic information he/she is looking for. In future, Tshivenda lexicographers should treat this morpheme in the macrostructural position of Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries and also in other dictionaries that target Tshivenda speakers. A word-based approach has never assisted dictionary users to get the required semantic information regarding other members of the lexicon.

The following treatment in (3) below would be better:

(3) mpunga/ mupunga	<i>(graan:slegs kl mu- /grain:cl mu- only : Plants /plant: mi-) rys/rice</i>
mu-	class 1 noun prefix, personal noun class 3 noun prefix
muaino (mi-)	cf Eng stry kwerk/ironing
mualavhi (vha-)	matroos/ sailor
mualuwa (vha-)	volwassene,grootmens/ adult.

The prefix **mu-** should be awarded lemmatic status because it is a fully-fledged member of Tshivenda lexicon. In the above treatment, the dictionary user will be able to know that the bound morpheme **mu-** is a noun prefix of class 1 and a noun class prefix of class 3.

The following presentation from Van Warmelo's bilingual dictionary is user-friendly:

(4) veveru	5 person given up as incorrigible, who commits offences with impunity because of beating, etc. Have no effect, who takes no orders, who is impertinent even to his chief, like a court jester (tshidada tsha khosi) for whom there is no law
vha	(pron.vb pref. cl.2) they; (respectfully)) vha cond. " if "
vha-	poss.cl.2: shango li na vhane vhalo the country belongs to some one
vha	(mbe.) = dep.cop.vhe, e.g. vho fhedza tshifhinga vha(= vhe) henengei they stayed there for some time.

The use of abbreviation in defining the lemma cannot assist the dictionary user because the dictionary user will not know that **pron.** stands for **pronoun**, **vb.** stands for **verb**, **pref.** stands for **prefix**, **poss.** stands for **possessive** and **cop.** stands for **copulative**. These abbreviations were supposed to be defined in the front matter of a dictionary but unfortunately it was not.

Let us see how Van Warmelo has treated each sublexical item **vha** in order to help the dictionary user to understand how they differ and how they function:

(5) vha	(pron. vb pref. cl.2) they; (respectfully)
----------------	---

vha cond. “if”. This sublexical item **vha** can work as a pronoun for a verb, it can work as a prefix of class 2 and also can work as a condition.

vha- poss.cl.2: shango ^{li} na ^{vhane} vhalo the country belongs to some one. This sublexical item **vha-** can work as a possessive of class 2 noun prefix .

vha (mbe.) = dep.cop.vhe, e.g. vho fhedza tshifhinga vha(= vhe) henengei they stayed there for some time.

Although the treatment of the sublexical lexical item **vha-** does not pose any problem to the dictionary user of Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionary, the treatment should have been given in full because abbreviations are confusing. If abbreviations are used in the treatment of headwords, such abbreviations should be included in the front matter of a dictionary so that dictionary user will be well acquainted with them.

Let us look at the following presentation by Muloiwa (1982: 73):

(6)	-veta	krap/scratch
	-vha	<i>copulat vb</i> wees,word/be, become
	-vhada ^	houtwerk doen, skrynwerk doen/carve wood, do carpentry
	vhadzo	(<i>poss</i>) van hulle, hulle (s’n)/of them, theirs.

Unfortunately, Muloiwa (1982) does not include the prefix **vha-** in his dictionary. Instead, Muloiwa (1982) includes it as a suffix of the copulative verb. This trilingual dictionary (Muloiwa’s) is not user friendly because the dictionary user will not retrieve the required semantic information he/she is looking for regarding the sublexical lexical item (prefix) **vha-**. The lexicographer should have treated sublexical lexical item **vha-** by giving it lemmatic status so that a dictionary user can be assisted when he/she wants semantic information. The sublexical lexical item **vha-** should be treated as follows:

- (7) **-veta** krap/scratch
vha- class 2 noun prefix, personal noun
-vha *copulat vb* wees, word/be, become
-vhada houtwerk doen, skrynwerk doen/carve wood, do
 carpentry
vhadzo (*poss*) van hulle, hulle (s'n)/of them, theirs.

In this case, the noun class prefix **vha-** has been included as a macrostructural element of a dictionary. Then the user will be assisted when she wants semantic information regarding the sublexical lexical item **vha-**.

Let us look at the following presentation by Muloiwa (1982:38):

- (8) **metshe (mimetshe)** *cf Eng* wedstryd/match
midai (*slegs mv/pl only*) grap/joke
midala (*adj*) *cf -dala*
midenya (*adj*) *cf -denya.*

In the above presentation, the sublexical lexical item **mi-** has not been accorded lemmatic status in the macrostructure. It should have been included immediately after the lemma **metshe** in the vertical position of a dictionary. Let us see how the sublexical lexical item **mi-** should be treated:

- (9) **metshe (mimetshe)** *cf Eng* wedstryd/match
mi- class 4 noun prefix, often contain living
 or moving objects such as names of
 rivers, plants and parts of the body
midai (*slegs mv/pl only*) grap/joke
midala (*adj*) *cf -dala*
midenya (*adj*) *cf -denya.*

The way the sublexical lexical item **mi-** was treated in the above article will not confuse the user of a bilingual dictionary when he/she requires the semantic information he/she is looking for. This means that the sublexical lexical item **mi-** is a

class 4 noun prefix, and it often has living or moving objects such as names of rivers, plants and parts of the body. This definition will assist the user to retrieve the information he/she is looking for.

Let us look at the following treatment of the sublexical lexical item **li-**

- (10) **-lesa** (from la) eat much or greedily;
 ^
 over-eat
- lethisi** 9 (Eng.) lettuce
 ^
- li-** (pron. vb pref.cl.5) it
 ^
- lia** (dem.cl.5,= lila) that yonder
 ^

Van Warmelo (1989:25) has treated the prefix **li-** as a prefix noun class 5. Van Warmelo (1989) has done better regarding the treatment of this sublexical lexical item. This means that the prefix **li-** is a pronoun and a verb prefix. Sublexical lexical item **li-** has been treated as a lemma in the macrostructural position of the dictionary and dictionary users will be able to get information regarding its function in the Tshivenda-lexicon. This is a user-friendly presentation and is what lexicography should do regarding the treatment of sublexical lexical items. Van Warmelo's dictionary displays a lexicon-based approach. It sometimes treats the language as it is. A word-based approach should be replaced by a lexicon-based approach in African language dictionaries. Although lexicographers such as Van Warmelo, etc, have done a better job in their dictionaries, their dictionaries still need some correction or adaptation, especially with regard to the use of abbreviations in the treatment of the lemmata.

The following presentation by Muloiwa (1982:28) poses some problems to the dictionary user:

- (11) **-lesa** coreet/overeat (oneself)
 ^
- levhethirii (dzi-)** cf Eng latrine/ lavatory, latrine
 ^
- liafukhada (ma-)** cf Afr avokado/ avocado
 ^
- liambele(ma-)** idiom,idiomatiese uitdrukking/idiom,
 ^
 idiomatic expression.

In the above presentation the sublexical item **li-** has not been accorded independent status as a macrostructural element. The prefix **li-** was supposed to be treated between the lemmas **levhethirii** and **liafukhada**. This treatment is not user friendly because the dictionary user will not be able to retrieve the semantic information he/she is looking for.

Let us see how sublexical item **li-** should be treated in this trilingual dictionary:

(12) lesa	coreet/overeat (oneself)
levhethirii (dzi-)	<i>cf Eng</i> latrine/ lavotory, latrine
li-	the prefix of noun class 5
liafukhada (ma-)	<i>cf Afr</i> avokado/ avocado
liambele(ma-)	idiom,idiomatiese uitdrukking/idiom, idiomatic expression.

The prefix **li-** has been given an independent lemmatic status in the above article and it will assist the dictionary user to get the relevant semantic information he/she is looking for. This treatment is user friendly because the dictionary user will be able to retrieve its semantic information. This means that **li-** is a prefix of noun class 5.

Let us see whether Van Warmelo (1989:38) has treated the sublexical lexical item **dzi-** as a lemma:

(13) dzhwii- dzhwii	sound of high-pitched screamin (as of children); yelping, squealing
dzi-	(pron.vb pref.cl.10) they
dzi	(vb pref.) = di, e.g. u kha dzi guda he is still learning
dzi	(id.; cf.-dzima) stand perfectly upright, fast, fixed as a pole; stand on hindlegs, as baboon looking round; make straight for, charge at
-dzia	(so. -ita) I be thick, as honey;be stiff as

porridge. 2 be sturdy, strong, of person only.

From the above presentation, the dictionary user will be able to deduce that the sublexical lexical item **dzi-** is different from the lexical item **dzi**, the latter is a free morpheme. The above presentation shows that Van Warmelo has treated the sublexical lexical item **dzi-** in the macrostructure of his dictionary. Let us look at each **dzi** presented above and see how it will assist the user.

(14) dzi-	(pron.vb pref.cl.10) they.
dzi	(vb pref.) = di, e.g. u kha dzi guda he is still learning
dzi	(id.;cf.-dzima) stand perfectly upright, fast, fixed as a pole; stand on hindlegs, as baboon looking round; make straight for, charge at

This treatment is user-friendly because the dictionary user can be able to retrieve the information he/she is looking for. That is the sublexical lemma **dzi-** functions as a class 10 noun prefix, as a verb and also an ideophone. In this case, the dictionary user will be able to retrieve the required information regarding the function of this sublexical lexical item in a lexicon.

Has Muloiwa (1982) included the same sublexical lexical item? Let us look at the following presentation.

(15) dzhulu (ma-)	soldaat-termiet/ soldier termite
-dzida	kerm, kreun, steun, kla/moan, groan
-dzizivhala	bewusteloos wees/ be unconscious
-dzika	(wind) bedaar; (water) verhelder; (pyn) afneem, verminder/abate, calm down; (water) clarify
dzila (dzi-)	(<i>demonstr</i>) doerdie/ yonder.

The sublexical lexical item **dzi-** was supposed to be treated between the lemmas **dzhulu** and **dzida** in the vertical position as a macrostructural element. That is, it

should have followed the lemma **dzhulu-** immediately before the lemma **-dziḁa**. Muloiwa (1982) does not treat prefix **dzi-** as a sublexical item in the vertical position and this sublexical lexical item should be given independent lemmatic status because it is a fully-fledged member of the Tshivenda lexicon that functions actively as an important morpheme that plays a pivotal role in word-formation processes .

Let us look at the following presentation to see how sublexical lexical item **dzi-** could assist the dictionary user to retrieve the semantic information he/she is looking for. The example below is a proposal for improvement of Muloiwa's presentation:

- (16) **dzhulu (ma-)** soldaat-termiet/ soldier termite
dzi- class 10 noun prefix (animal class),subject and object concord, a pronoun prefix, a verb prefix
-dziḁa kerm, kreun, steun, kla/moan, groan
-dzizivhala bewusteloos wees/ be unconscious
-dzika (wind) bedaar; (water) verhelder; (pyn) afneem, verminder/ abate, calm down; (water) clarify
dziḁa (dzi-) (*demonstr*)doerdie/ yonder

From the presentation given above, dictionary users will be able to deduce that sublexical lexical item **dzi-** is a class 10 noun prefix, subject and object concord, a pronoun prefix and verb prefix. This treatment is user-friendly because the dictionary user would be able to retrieve the semantic information he/she is looking for. Also, the user will be able to see that this sublexical lexical item is polysemous as it has many senses that are in one way or another related to each other.

Let us look at the following presentation by Van Warmelo (1989:446) regarding the treatment of sublexical lexical item **u-**:

- (17) **u-** (< hu <B. ku) noun pref.cl.15)but written separate)forming infin. of verbs e.g. u ita
u- (pron. vb pref. Cl. 1, 3 subj.& cl. 3 obj.) he, she, it
u- vb pref.subj/obj 2.pers. sing. "you"used to

	junior amongst children, by mother to youngest children when still small; familiarly, patronizingly, in some circumstances, abusively and in anger in others; in general, not addressing anyone: u do lwa navho? will you (i.e. can one) fight them?
-u	(poss. 2nd pers. sing.) of you, yours. Ito lau your eye. Wau your relative
-udza	howl (of dog)

In the above presentation, the dictionary user will be able to deduce that the sublexical lexical item **u** is different from the lexical item **u**. The above presentation shows that Van Warmelo (1989) has treated the sublexical lexical item **u-** in the macrostructure. Let us look at each presented **u** above and see how it will assist the user to achieve communicative equivalence in the target language:

- (18) **u** < hu <B. ku) noun pref.cl.15) but written separate)
forming infin. of verbs e.g. u ita
- u** (pron. vb pref. Cl. 1, 3 subj.& cl. 3
obj.) he, she, it
- u** vb pref.subj/obj 2.pers. sing. you use to juniors amongst children, by mother to youngest children when still small; familiarly, patronizingly, in some circumstances, abusively and in anger in others; in general, not addressing anyone: u do lwa navho? will you (i.e. can one) fight them? The verb prefix, subjectival and objectival concord of noun class 2
- u** (poss. 2nd pers. sing.) of you, yours. Ito lau your eye.
Wau your relative

Although Van Warmelo (1989) did not provide full treatment of sublexical item **u**, its treatment will present few problems to the dictionary user of the Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionary and if the treatment in the target language was written in full, then it would have been user-friendly. We know that a dictionary should always be

economical but not if the target users cannot retrieve the required semantic information. This is to argue that Van Warmelo (1989) should have given semantic information regarding the sublexical lexical items in full.

Let us see if Muloiwa (1982:72) has treated the sublexical item **u-** and if he did, how is the treatment?

(19)	uho (<i>vhu;- u demonstr</i>)	daar/that those
	uhu (<i>u-; vhu- demonstr</i>)	hierdie hier/ this/ these
	ukhutha	afskud,uitskud stof/ shake out/off dust
	uku (<i>ku- demonstr</i>)	hierdie hier/this here.

In the above presentation, the sublexical lexical item **u-** has not been accorded independent status as a macrostructural element but it has been presented as microstructural element in the articles of the lemmata **uho** and **uhu**. This is not good lexicographic practice. The prefix **u-** was supposed to be presented before the four lemmata in the alphabetical ordering.

Let us see how the sublexical lexical item **u-** should have been treated in this bilingual dictionary:

(20)	u-	class 15 noun prefix, infinitive of verbs, a pronoun,subjectival concord and objectival concord of noun class 3, verb prefix, possessive of second person singular.
	uho (<i>vhu;- u-demonstr</i>)	daar /that those
	uhu (<i>u-; vhu-demonstr</i>)	hierdie hier/ this/ these
	ukhutha	afskud, uitskud (stof)/ shaka out/off dust
	uku (<i>ku- demonstr</i>)	hierdie hier/this here

The way the sublexical lexical item **u-** was treated in the above article cannot confuse the user of a bilingual dictionary when he/she requires semantic information. This means that the prefix **u-** is a pronoun, subjectival concord and objectival concord of noun class 3, verb prefix, possessive of second person singular, class 15 noun prefix and infinitive of verbs. But user's must note its functions as a pronoun, subjectival concord and objectival concord only if it does not have a dash before it.

3.2.1.3. TREATMENT OF LOCATIVE NOUN PREFIXES IN TSHIVENDA - ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

The locative noun prefix is a prefix which indicates a place. The locative prefixes were not treated in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries. The dictionary user could not be assisted when he/she requires semantic information regarding locatives and this posed problems to a dictionary user.

Locative prefixes are class 16; **fha-**; class 17, **ku-**; class 18, **mu-** e.g.

- (21) **fhasi** (under)
fhetu (place)
kule (far)
murahu (behind)

These locatives were not treated in the macrostructure of these dictionaries by Van Warmelo and Muloiwa. As fully-fledged members of the Tshivenda lexicon they should be accorded lemmatic status, because they are important in the Tshivenda lexicon. The prefix **kha-** is used to indicate **on the** and **in the**. It precedes a noun, e.g.

- (22) **kha nndu** (in the house)
kha tombo (on the stone)
kha tshidzulo (on the chair).

As main entries these locative prefixes are very important and should be given independent lemma status in the macrostructure of Tshivenda dictionaries. They play

an important role in the Tshivenda lexicon, and also they are used most frequently in the language.

3.2.1.4 TREATMENT OF SUFFIXAL MORPHEMES IN TSHIVENDA - ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

The following are some of the suffixes that should be treated in the macrostructure of Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries:

-ela, -iwa, -ala, -isa, -ulu, -ana, -esa.

In Tshivenda, these suffixal morphemes are productive in word-formation processes. These bound morphemes are treated in the articles of other lexical items and it will not assist the dictionary user to obtain the required information from the dictionary. These sublexical lexical items must be accorded lemmatic status and their treatment should be as comprehensive as possible.

Tshivenda bilingual dictionaries have not treated the above suffixal morphemes. That is, these suffixal morphemes have not been given either sublemmatic or lemmatic status in the macrostructure. Because they are fully-fledged lexical items, these suffixes should be included as lemmata in the macrostructure of dictionaries.

The following presentation of suffixal morphemes could assist the dictionary user to retrieve the presented semantic information successfully:

- (23)
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| -ela | Applied suffix which is usually attached to verbs <i>example: shuma + ela = shumela</i> (work for) |
| -iwa | Passive suffix <i>example: vhona + iwa = vhoneiwa</i> (be seen) |
| -ala | Neuter suffix <i>example: lem- + ala = lemala</i> (become spoiled) |
| -isa | Causative and assistative suffix <i>example: imba + isa = imbisa</i> (cause or assist to sing) |

-ulu	Reversible suffix <i>example: tiba + ulu = tibula</i> (remove a lid)
-ana	Reciprocal suffix <i>example : fun + ana = funana</i> (love each other)
-esa	Intensive suffix <i>example : bwa + esa</i> = <i>bwesa</i> (dig deep)

These examples will help the dictionary user to find it easy to apply these suffixes to nouns and verbs. This means that the user will know for example that when the verb **imba** is combined with the suffix **isa** it will form the causative verb **imbisa** which means “**cause to sing**”.

When the verb **tiba** is combined with the suffix **-isa** it will form the reversible verb **tibula** which means **remove lid**. When the verb **bwa** is combined with the suffix or the bound morpheme **-esa** it will form an intensive verb **bwesa** which means “**dig deep**”.

Sublexical lexical items should not appear in the microstructure or semantic comment of other lexical lemmata. These items should be treated as fully-fledged members of the lexicon of the language.

3.2.1.5 TREATMENT OF LOCATIVE SUFFIXES IN TSHIVENḐA- ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

In TshivenḐa the locative form of the noun indicates a place, a locality, e.g. *in the house, by the tree, by the river, by the mountain*, etc. In TshivenḐa, locative is formed by adding **-ni** as a suffix to the noun. In TshivenḐa-English bilingual dictionaries, lexicographers did not the treat locative suffix **-ni** as a sublexical lexical item in the macrostructure.

The following presentation of locatives suffix **-ni** could assist the dictionary user to successfully retrieve the presented semantic information:

(24) muḑi (village)

mudi+ **ni** > mudini (at/ in/ to the village)

(25) mulambo (river)

mulambo + **ni** > mulamboni (by the river)

(26) thavha (mountain)

thavha + **ni** > thavhani (by the mountain)

The sublexical lexical item **-ni** should be given lemmatic status because this morpheme is a fully-fledged member of the Tshivenda lexicon. .

3.5 CONCLUSION

These dictionaries were better in some cases because sublexical lexical items were treated. In Van Warmelo's dictionary, the treatment has been abbreviated. The dictionary user will not be able to get semantic information in detail because these abbreviations may confuse him/her because he/she may not be familiar with them (abbreviations). Abbreviations will serve a purpose only if they have been explained in details (what they mean) in the front matter of that particular dictionary.

CHAPTER 4

TREATMENT OF MULTILEXICAL LEXICAL ITEMS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to evaluate Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries in terms of their presentation of multilexical lexical items. Mphahlele (2003:163) defines multilexical lexical items as items that consist of more than one word. This combination of words is always a unit and should be treated likewise in a dictionary. Although multiword lexical items consist of more than one word, they should, as Gouws (1991:78) stresses, be regarded as single lexical items. These items should therefore be included as multilexical lemmata in the macrostructure of dictionaries.

Tshivenda possesses multilexical lexical items such as, group prepositions, fixed expressions, etc. These items are fully-fledged members of the Tshivenda lexicon and they should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary as multilexical items. In the current Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries these items have not been accorded lemmatic status and this poses a problem to a dictionary user who wants to retrieve semantic information he/she is looking for regarding multilexical lexical items.

Mphahlele (2003:163) stresses that if multiword lexical items such as group prepositions and fixed expressions are included in the microstructure or semantic comment of other lexical items, dictionary users would not be able to retrieve their meaning because they would regard any information presented after the definition of a lexical lemma as extralinguistic. In other words, users would not expect to find the meaning of a compound word in the microstructure of a lexical lemma.

4.2 TREATMENT OF GROUP PREPOSITIONS IN TSHIVENDA- ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

Mphahlele (2001: 103) says that group prepositions should be presented in the macrostructure of a dictionary. He argues that (2001) in Kritzinger and Steyn's dictionary, not even a single group preposition has been entered in the macrostructure. Even the microstructures do not have group prepositions. In other words, group prepositions have been ignored in this dictionary.

Gouws (1991:83) says that the current approach in Afrikaans dictionaries is not to include group prepositions as lemmas, but rather to include them in the article of a selected headword. With regard to this, Gouws says that this procedure gives no evidence of consistency or of any well-defined lexicographical or linguistic principle governing their incorporation.

Most dictionaries did not include group prepositions as lemmas. Instead, they included them in the entries of selected or other headwords. Group prepositions should be treated as independent lemmata in the macrostructures of dictionaries. (monolingual and bilingual).

The following multilexical items are examples of group prepositions in English:

on account of
in front of
in reply to
in change of
in search of
in aid of
in spite of
in order to
by means of
on behalf of
in view of
on the basis of

in place of
 in accordance with
 in consideration of
 in relation to
 in respect of
 with reference to
 with regard to
 instead of
 from lack of, etc.

These group prepositions should be presented in the macrostructure of a dictionary. In Van Warmelo (1989) and Muloiwa (1982) Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries, not even a single group preposition has been entered in the macrostructure as a treatment unit. In other words, group prepositions have been ignored or forgotten in these dictionaries. Even the microstructures of these dictionaries do not have group prepositions.

The following treatment will assist dictionary users to retrieve semantic information they are looking for regarding group prepositions:

(10) nga mulandu wa	on account of (group preposition)
nga thuso ya	in aid of (group preposition)
phanḁa ha	in front of (group preposition)
ṱoḁana na	in search of (group preposition)
tahelelwa nga	from lack of (group preposition)
madzuloni a	in spite of (group preposition)

Group prepositions are very important in a language and they must be treated as fully-fledged lexical items. This is to say that Tshivenda bilingual dictionaries should be revised in such a way that multilexical elements are accommodated in the macrostructure as treatment units. Group prepositions play an important role in any communication in Tshivenda. They are frequently used like any other lexical item in this language.

4.3 TREATMENT OF FIXED EXPRESSIONS IN TSHIVENḐA-ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

Fixed expressions are frozen patterns of language that allow little or no variation and are fairly transparent meaning. Baker (1992:63) says that though a fixed expression is said to have a transparent meaning its meaning is more than the sum of meanings of the individual words. The fixed expression is very important also in TshivenḐa lexicon.

In the Van Warmelo (1989) TshivenḐa bilingual dictionary and Muloiwa (1982) TshivenḐa-English trilingual dictionary, no fixed expression was entered in the macrostructure as a treatment unit. Even their microstructures do not have fixed expressions.

The following treatment could assist dictionary users to retrieve the required semantic information regarding fixed expressions:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| (11) mbilu yavhuḑi | (fixed expression) | good heart |
| lwo fhelelaho | (fixed expression) | head over heels |
| ito nga ito | (fixed expressions) | eye to eye |

These multilexical items should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary because they are fully-fledged members of TshivenḐa lexicon. They convey meanings like any other lexical item found in TshivenḐa (language). Fixed expressions should be treated in bilingual dictionaries because the target language users want to know the meanings of this item so that they could communicate successfully in the source language (TshivenḐa).

4.4 TREATMENT OF IDIOMS IN TSHIVENḐA-ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

According to Svensén (1993:108) an idiomatic expression will be viewed as an expression or group of words having special meaning which is not inherent to or

determinable from its component parts; an expression peculiar to a language and conveying a distinct meaning that is not necessarily explicable by, and may occasionally even be contrary to, the meanings of its component parts.

Idioms are frozen patterns of language that allow little or no variation in form. Their meanings cannot be deduced from individual components. This means that their meanings are not transparent.

In the Van Varmelo (1989) Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionary and Muloiwa (1982) Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionary, no idioms are entered in the macrostructure. This means that idioms have been ignored. These items should be included as multilexical lemmata in the macrostructures of bilingual dictionaries. But most often, this must be determined by a dictionary's editorial policy.

The following examples illustrate the argument (the bracketed elements are Tshivenda meanings of the same idioms):

(12) u ya makhokha	gone for ever (u tuwa wa si tsha vhuya)
u guma fola	to be angry (u sinyuwa)
u vha na gunwe	to be a thief (u tswa)
khuhu i tevhela muthu	there is no food (hu na ndala)
mapfene o tsitsa vhana	people are happy (ho takaliwa)
dunzi lo fhufha	sickness has gone (u fhola ha vhulwadze)
u humbela fola	to propose love (u ambisa)
u bika nga khulu	someone has passed away (hu na lufu)
u hoha mphasi	to take drugs (u daha mbanzhe)
a dzo ngo vhuya dzothe	running mad (u penga)
u shela muṅo	to lie (u zwifha)
u silinga	to practice witchcraft (u lowa).

These treatments are user-friendly because the dictionary user will be able to retrieve the information he/she is looking for. Therefore, the user will be able to communicate effectively with these idioms.

4.5 TREATMENT OF PROVERBS IN TSHIVENDA-ENGLISH BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

Proverbs express their truth in a figurative way by various types of metaphors through comparison of one thing with the other. Guma (1980:65) defines a proverb as a pithy sentence with a general bearing on life. According to Guma (1980), it serves to express some “homely truth” or moral lesson in such an appropriate manner as to make one feel that no better words could have been utilized to describe a particular situation.

As members of Tshivenda lexicon, these elements should be entered in the macrostructure as lemmata, not as additional entries in the microstructure.

Let us see how Van Warmelo (1989:2) has treated proverbs in his bilingual dictionary:

(13) - ambisa	ask the hand of, in marriage (not necessarily for oneself. This term embraces all the formalities of betrothal), mod, court, ask for intimate favours
-ambulula	divulge; disclose a secret, betray by talk
-ambusa	(tr) 1 ford across, assist in crossing water. 2 bring washing water for a chief, help him to wash, (refl.) -di- ambusa wash oneself (of a chief only)
-ambuwa	ford, wade through. prov.hu ambuwa vhunanga, vhukololo a vhu ambuwi “The medicine-man who crosses a river [into foreign territory] takes his craft with him, but royal rank cannot be taken abroad” Away from home higher high birth does not count
-amedza	filch milk from a cow (of big calf no longer in need of it).

The above presentation shows that Van Warmelo (1989) has treated the proverb **hu ambuwa vhuṅanga, vhukololo a vhu ambuwi** in the microstructure of his bilingual dictionary. This treatment is not user-friendly because the dictionary users will not be able to retrieve the information they are looking for. That is, he/she will not be able to know that the lemma - **ambuwa** has a proverb **hu ambuwa vhuṅanga, vhukololo a vhu ambuwi** in its semantic comment.

Let us see how the multilexical item **hu ambuawa vhuṅanga, vhukolo a vhuambuwi** could be treated:

(14) - ambisa	ask the hand of, in marriage (not necessarily for oneself. This term embraces all the formalities of betrothal), mod, court, ask for intimate favours
-ambulula	divulge; disclose a secret, betray by talk
-ambusa	(tr) 1 ford across, assist in crossing water. 2 bring washing water for a chief, help him to wash, (refl.) -di- ambusa wash oneself (of a chief only)
-ambuwa	ford, wade through.
hu ambuwa vhuṅanga	The medicine-man who crosses a river [into foreign territory]
vhukololo a vhu ambuwi	takes his craft with him, but royal rank cannot be taken abroad. Away from home higher birth does not count
-amedza	filch milk from a cow (of big calf no longer in need of it).

Let us see whether Muloiwa (1982:7) has treated this proverb in his trilingual dictionary:

(15) -ambe	(le) la verdedig (saak), praat namens/ advocate, defend (a case), speak for
-ambisa	vry, mekaar die hof maak, aanlê/court (try to

	win someone's affection), woo
-ambulula	blootlê, openbaar/disclose, reveal
-ambusa	laat/help oor rivier gaan/ford across assist in crossing water
-ambuwa	deur rivier gaan; deur rivier waad/ ford ; wade through
-anu	(<i>poss</i>) van julle, julle s'n/of you, your (s).

This presentation is not user-friendly. The proverb **-hu ambuwa vhuñanga, vhukololo a vhu ambuwi** was supposed to be treated between the lemmas **-ambuwa** and **-anu** in the vertical position of the dictionary with **ambuwa** appearing as a prefix of the the proverb. Muloiwa (1982) does not treat the proverb **hu ambuwa vhuñanga, vhukolo a vhuambuwi** as a multilexical item in the vertical position and this multilexical item **hu ambuwa vhuñanga, vhukolo a vhuambuwi** should have been given independent lemmatic status because this proverb is a fully-fledged member of the Tshivenda lexicon. The above approach cannot assist the dictionary user to retrieve the required semantic information he/she is looking for.

Let us see how the multilexical lexical item **hu ambuwa vhuñanga vhukololo a vhu ambuwi** should be treated:

(16) -ambe	(le) la verdedig (saak), praat namens/advocate, defend(a case), speak for
-ambisa	vry, mekaar die hof maak, aanlê/court(try to win someone's affection), woo
-ambulula	blootlê, openbaar/disclose, reveal
-ambusa	laat/help oor rivier gaan/ford across assist in crossing water
-ambuwa	deur rivier gaan; deur rivier waad/ ford ; wade through
hu ambuwa vhuñanga vhukololo a	The medicine-man who crosses a river [into foreign territory] takes his craft with him, but

vhu ambuwi	royal rank cannot be taken abroad. Away from home higher birth does not count
-anu	(<i>poss</i>) van julle, julle s'n/of you, your (s).

The way the proverb **hu ambuwa vhuñanga, vhukolo a vhu ambuwi** was treated in the above article will not confuse the user of a bilingual dictionary when he/she requires the semantic information he/she is looking for. This means that the multilexical item **hu ambuwa vhuñanga vhukololo a vhu ambuwi** is a proverb which must be given its own meaning. Alternatively, proverb may be lemmatised under letter (h) in the alphabetical ordering in the same dictionary.

Van Warmelo (1989) has treated proverbs throughout his dictionary but, unfortunately, these proverbs were treated in the microstructures of other headwords. This means that his dictionary is not user-friendly because the dictionary user cannot retrieve the semantic information he/she is looking for concerning proverbs. This means that the user may sometimes ignore the presented proverbs in the microstructure.

Let us look at some of the proverbs which Van Warmelo treated in his bilingual dictionary:

(17)mabalane	1 (pl. vho- ; Zu. From mines) clerk
mabale	6 (cf.-bala) a being, arriving, doing first. Ndo ita – I finished or arrived first. Mabale ndi anga ! interj. To claim first right to something or to do something. <i>See matevhe</i>
mabale- bale	6 = mabale
mabanyani	6 pl.of Mubanyani
mabe	7 said to be certain animal (?). Occurs only in (Mu litsheni) u do vhona mabe tshi tshi okhola (= u do vhona pfeñe lo kodola) “Leave him alone and he will find out for himself when the trouble starts”
prov:	mabe tsho anga nzie, nzie dza

tshi anga- vho “ Mabe excitedly pursued the (first) locusts; afterwards they chased him”. When they got numerous he lost interest. Of excessive enthusiasm which wanes and turns into revulsion

prov: U pandela mabe uri tshi ye lundani “To chase away mabe so that it goes into the garden” (where it does more damage). Better leave a hated person unmolested rather than drive him out to another place where he prospers

mabelwe 6 (cf. –beba) circumstances of one’s birth; status due to birth

As we can see, the proverbs form part of the microstructure in this dictionary. Van Warmelo should have considered the fact that Tshivenda dictionary users are not used to dictionary policies. i.e. their reference skills should have been considered.

The following examples are also found in his (Van Warmelo 1989:161) dictionary.

(18)pfemula pull off layer which comes off easily, as skin off layer which comes off easily, as skin off cooked fish or fowl

pfene 5 (B,?-p̣wene, Zu / Xho imfene, Tso. Nfenhe, So. Ṭshwene, Sho. Bvene) baboon (*Papio porcarius*).-via – (skin a baboon) drink beer (slang). - bata – (seize a baboon) secret term of women: have first courses; mapfene human twins. O tuwa nga dza mapfene by shortest way, not any way usually taken by people. - rwana nga shambo la – accused one another falsely. Less usu. for tshweni “person killed in battle, or for medicine”

prov: Pfene li anea luvhilo, Mutonga u anea tshe a la

“The baboon (on its return from a journey) tells about its speed, a Mutonga tells about the food they gave him” Used by one who is well treated by his hosts

prov: Mapfene o tsitsa vhana “The baboons have put their young on the ground”. Everybody feels secure.

prov: Mapfene hu la mahulwane, matuku a tou longa mitshila “the big baboons take the food, the small ones put in their tails” Boys are sent to steal but only get what is left over after their elders have finished

pfe-pfe (id.) = -pfarula tear quickly

-pfemula fray (tr.) Van Warmelo (1989:298)

The above presentations shows that Van Warmelo (1989) has treated proverbs in the microstructure of his bilingual dictionary. With the above approach, the lexicographer cannot assist the dictionary user to retrieve the semantic information he/she is looking for because taking into account the reference skills of the users.

These proverbs in Van Warmelo’s dictionary should be treated as follows:

(19) pfemula pull off layer which comes off easily, as skin off layer which comes off easily, as skin off cooked fish or fowl

pfene 5 (B,?-pŵene, Zu / Xho imfene, Tso.Nfenhe, So. Tšhwene, Sho. Bvene) baboon (Papio porcarius).-via – (skin a baboon)) drink beer (slang). - bata – (seize a baboon) secret term of women: have first courses; mapfene human twins. O tuwa nga dza mapfene by shortest way, not any way usually taken by people.- rwana nga shambo la – accused one another falsely. Less usu. for tshweni “ person killed in battle, or for

	medicine ”
pfene ^	Pfene li anea luvhilo, Mutonga u anea tshe a la “The baboon(on its return from a journey) tells about its speed, a Mutonga tells about the food they gave him” Used by one who is well treated by his hosts
mapfene ^	Mapfene o tsitsa vhana “The baboons have put their young on the ground”. Everybody feels secure.
mapfene ^	Mapfene hu la mahulwane, matuku a tou longa mithshila “the big baboons take the food, the small ones put in their tails ” Boys are sent to steal but only get what is left over after their elders have finished
pfe-pfe	(id.) = -pfarula tear quickly
-pfemula	fray (tr.).

6.CONCLUSION

Tshivenda dictionaries should include multilexical lexical items such as, group prepositions, fixed expressions, etc in their macrostructures as lemmata These items are fully-fledged members of the Tshivenda lexicon and they should be included in the macrostructure of a dictionary as multilexical lexical items. Multiword lexical items such as group prepositions and fixed expressions should not be included in the microstructure or semantic comment of other lexical lemmata, if this is done, dictionary users would not be able to retrieve their meaning because they would regard any information presented after the definition or translation equivalents of a lexical lemma as extralinguistic. In other words, users would not expect to find the meaning of a group prepositions word in the microstructure of a lexical lemma.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to evaluate Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries with regard to macrostructural presentation of sublexical and multilexical lexical items. This aim has been achieved by the study.

Lexicon-based approach to lexicography is a modern lexicography that regards sublexical, lexical and multilexical elements as equal members of the lexicon and also as possible candidates to be included in a macrostructure of a dictionary. This lexicography is against a word-based approach to dictionary compilation.

It is indicated in the study that the word-based approach to lexicography is a lexicographic tradition that regards words as the only macrostructural elements without considering other members of the lexicon such as sublexical and multilexical elements to be included in a macrostructure as lemmata.

The study argues that a selection of macrostructural elements (lemmata) to be included in a dictionary should not be done haphazardly or at random but should be motivated linguistically. In his/her choice of macrostructural elements, the lexicographer has to be well acquainted with current linguistic trends and approaches. This means that the lexicographer should have a sound knowledge of linguistics so that she/he will be able to treat the lexicon of a language in a successful way. Therefore as the study suggests not only words (lexical elements) but also sublexical and multilexical elements should be included as macrostructural elements of a dictionary. Instead of word-based approach, a lexicon-based approach to the selection of macrostructural elements in a dictionary is promoted; and that, defying the traditional word-bias approach, the status of sublexical and multilexical elements should be recognised. If the traditional word-based approach is avoided, then a dictionary will display a lexicon-based approach that treats sublexical and multilexical items equally.

It is shown in the study how Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries entered sublexical and multilexical elements in the microstructures of other lemmata as additional entries whilst words are regarded as lemmata. In these dictionaries, whilst sublexical and multilexical lexical items are not treated as lemmata or treatment units. It is argued that the noun classes are very important in a language and these prefixal morphemes need to be treated in a dictionary as macrostructural elements.

It is very important for a Tshivenda lexicographer to familiarize himself/herself with these classes so that he/she could treat them in a bilingual dictionary. There are some nouns falling under different classes that share the same prefix. In this case, the lexicographer has to make differentiation in the microstructure so that the user can retrieve the required information regarding the same prefixal morphemes. The occurrence of a particular prefixal morpheme in a language should be recorded in a dictionary as semantic information.

This means that in order to assist the dictionary user to retrieve the required information he/she is looking for, class prefixes should be treated in the macrostructural position of Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries together with their relevant meanings.

The study discovered that locative prefixes were not treated in the macrostructure of Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries. In this case, the dictionary user will not be assisted when he/she requires semantic information regarding locatives in a dictionary. They should be accorded lemmatic status as they are fully-fledged members of a Tshivenda lexicon.

The study also discovered that suffixal morphemes were treated in the articles of other lexical lemmata and this treatment will not assist the dictionary user to obtain the required semantic information from the dictionary regarding those morphemes. Suffixal morphemes must be accorded lemmatic status and their treatment should be as comprehensive as possible.

Most bilingual dictionaries do not include group prepositions as lemmata, instead, they are included in the articles of selected headwords. Group prepositions are very

important in a language and they must be treated as fully-fledged multilexical lexical items in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries. This is to say that Tshivenda bilingual dictionaries should be revised in such a way that group prepositions are accommodated in the macrostructure as treatment units. The study argues that group prepositions play an important role in daily communication in any language. They are frequently used like any other lexical items in Tshivenda language.

It is indicated that fixed expressions are frozen patterns of a language that allow little or no variation in form. Also, these forms should be included in the macrostructure of a bilingual dictionary because they are fully-fledged members of Tshivenda lexicon. They convey meaning like any other lexical items found in Tshivenda (language). This is to argue that fixed expressions should be treated in bilingual dictionaries because the target language users want to know the meanings of these items so that they could communicate successfully in the source language (Tshivenda).

As frozen patterns of a language that allow little or no variation in form the meanings of idioms cannot be deduced from their individual components. Therefore their meanings are not transparent. In Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries no idioms are entered in the macrostructure. This means that idioms have been ignored in these dictionaries. The study concludes that these items should be included as multilexical lemmata in the macrostructures of bilingual dictionaries so that dictionary users learn more about these intransparent forms of a language.

Proverbs are short sentences which give advice or make comments about life. The study argues that as members of Tshivenda lexicon, these elements should be entered in the macrostructure of dictionaries as lemmata and not as additional entries in the microstructure. As already shown, in Tshivenda-English bilingual dictionaries proverbs were treated in the microstructure. The lexicographers of these dictionaries do not assist the dictionary user to retrieve the required semantic information he/she is looking for. This is because, taking into account the reference skills of the users, the users will see these proverbs as encyclopaedic information which is not essential in the microstructure.

The study recommends that:

- Prefixal and suffixal morphemes should be presented as lemmata in the macrostructures of any dictionary (monolingual and bilingual).
- Sublexical and multilexical lexical items are fully-fledged members of the Tshivenda lexicon as such, they need to be accorded independent lemmatic status in dictionaries.
- The word-based approach to lexicography should be replaced by lexicon-based approach were sublexical and multilexical items are included as the the macrostructural elements of a dictionary.
- Noun classes are very important in a language and they should be treated in a dictionary as treatments units.
- For user oriented-bilingual dictionaries group preposition and fixed expressions, and so forth, should be accorded independent status in the macrostructure.
- Any marker such as pronunciations, symbols, and so forth, that are used in the dictionary should be included in the front matter of such a dictionary so that the user may know their implication within the dictionary.
- Finally, African language dictionaries must follow English and Afrikaans dictionaries as examples because as for now the traditional word-based lexicography is already abolished in these dictionaries.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baker M. 1992. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* London and New York: Routledge.
- Bauer, L.1983.*English Word - Formation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Feinauer, A.E. 1997. *The Treatment of Semantic Information in dictionaries*: M Phil Study Guide. University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch.
- Fromkin, V. and R. Rodman. 1993. *An Introduction to Language*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.
- Gouws, R.H. 1989b. Setsels as Makrostruktuurelemente van Afrikaanse Woordeboeke. *SA Tydskrif vir Taalkunde*, 7 (2): 59- 67.
- Gouws, R.H. 1991. Towards a Lexicon-Based Lexicography. *Dictionaries*, 13: 75-90.
- Gouws, R.H. and Prinsloo D.J. 1997. Lemmatisation of Adjectives in Sepedi. *Lexikos* 7: 45-57.
- Guma, S.M. 1980. *The Form Content and Technique of Traditional Literature in Southern Sotho*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
- Hartman, R.R.K. 1993. (ed) *Workbook on Lexicography*. Exeter: Exeter University.
- Jackson, H. 1988. *Words and their Meanings*. London: Longman Group.
- Kritzinger, M.S.B and Steyn H. A.1970. *Afrikaans-Engels/ English- Afrikaans School dictionary*. Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
- Marole, L.T. 1954. *English-Venda Vocabulary*. Sibasa Depot, Sibasa.

Translation Dictionaries. University of unpublished M Phil Dissertation
Stellenbosch; Stellenbosch.

Mphahlele, M.C. 2002. *Dictionary of Lexicographic Terms*. Unpublished : University
of the North.

Mphahlele, M.C. 2003. *The Monolingual Dictionary of Sesotho sa Leboa: A Lexicon-
Based Dictionary*. Unpublished Article. University of the North.

Muloiwa, T.W.1982. *Improved Trilingual Dictionary*. Pretoria: University of South
Africa.

Poulos, G. 1990. *A Linguistic Analysis of Tshivenda*. Pretoria : Via Africa .

Svensén, B.1993. *Practical Lexicography : Principles and Methods of Dictionary –
Making*. Oxford . New York: Oxford University Press.

Van Warmelo, N. J. 1989. *Venda Dictionary. Tshivenda-English*. Pretoria: J. L. van
Schaik.

Ziervogel, D. *et al.* 1972. *A Handbook of the Venda Language*. Pretoria: University
of South Africa.

Zgusta, L 1967. Multiword Lexical Units. *Word* 23:578-587.