

## **Appendix C**

### **Survey for the revision of the African Language Translation Facilitation Course at D Lang**

**Department of Defence  
Human Resources Support Centre  
Directorate Language Services**

**Survey  
for the Revision of the  
African Language Translation Facilitation Course  
at D Lang**



**Introduction:**

After three years of African Language Translation Facilitation Courses at the Directorate Language Services (D LANG), D Lang has decided to conduct a more detailed survey among you, the students of the African Language Translation Facilitation Course, to learn more about your linguistic backgrounds and needs, as well as your expectations, opinions and feelings regarding the course. This survey will form an integral part of a study to revise the African Language Translation Facilitation Course, making individual modules more relevant and student-friendly.

The questionnaire is divided into three parts. You will be asked to fill in parts I and II during your stay at D Lang, while part III is to be completed about seven to ten months after you have attended the African Language Translation Facilitation Course.

D Lang would appreciate if you answered the questions below as honestly as possible in order to assist us in our quest for a more student- and need-oriented course programme.

**All the information supplied in this questionnaire will be strictly confidential.**

## Part I

### Student Profile

Your answers to the questions asked in this part of the questionnaire will help us establish a more accurate profile of the candidates attending the African Language Translation Facilitation Course with regard to schooling, language combinations and preferences, prior translation experience, etc. They will help us anticipate your needs and expectations.

**Circle the number of your answer.**

**Q1 What language did you first learn as a child?**

- |            |             |                           |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SEPEDI   | 5 TSHIVENDA | 9 ISINDEBELE              |
| 2 SESOTHO  | 6 XITSONGA  | 10 ISIXHOSA               |
| 3 SETSWANA | 7 AFRIKAANS | 11 ISIZULU                |
| 4 SISWATI  | 8 ENGLISH   | 12 OTHER (Please specify) |
- 

**Q2 What language do you mostly speak in your own family at home?**

- |            |             |                           |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SEPEDI   | 5 TSHIVENDA | 9 ISINDEBELE              |
| 2 SESOTHO  | 6 XITSONGA  | 10 ISIXHOSA               |
| 3 SETSWANA | 7 AFRIKAANS | 11 ISIZULU                |
| 4 SISWATI  | 8 ENGLISH   | 12 OTHER (Please specify) |
- 

**Q3 At your workplace, what language do you mostly speak among your colleagues?**

- |            |             |                           |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SEPEDI   | 5 TSHIVENDA | 9 ISINDEBELE              |
| 2 SESOTHO  | 6 XITSONGA  | 10 ISIXHOSA               |
| 3 SETSWANA | 7 AFRIKAANS | 11 ISIZULU                |
| 4 SISWATI  | 8 ENGLISH   | 12 OTHER (Please specify) |
- 

**Q4 At your workplace, what language do you mostly speak to your superiors?**

- |            |             |                           |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SEPEDI   | 5 TSHIVENDA | 9 ISINDEBELE              |
| 2 SESOTHO  | 6 XITSONGA  | 10 ISIXHOSA               |
| 3 SETSWANA | 7 AFRIKAANS | 11 ISIZULU                |
| 4 SISWATI  | 8 ENGLISH   | 12 OTHER (Please specify) |
-

**Q5 In which language do you feel most comfortable with regard to comprehension, speaking, reading and writing?**

- |            |             |                           |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SEPEDI   | 5 TSHIVENDA | 9 ISINDEBELE              |
| 2 SESOTHO  | 6 XITSONGA  | 10 ISIXHOSA               |
| 3 SETSWANA | 7 AFRIKAANS | 11 ISIZULU                |
| 4 SISWATI  | 8 ENGLISH   | 12 OTHER (Please specify) |
- 

**Q6 Between English and Afrikaans, which of the two languages do you prefer?**

- 1 AFRIKAANS
- 2 ENGLISH

**Q7 How would you assess your command of English?**

- |           |        |                |       |
|-----------|--------|----------------|-------|
| SPEAKING: | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |
| READING:  | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |
| WRITING:  | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |

**Q8 How would you assess your command of Afrikaans?**

- |           |        |                |       |
|-----------|--------|----------------|-------|
| SPEAKING: | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |
| READING:  | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |
| WRITING:  | 1 GOOD | 2 SATISFACTORY | 3 BAD |

**Q9 Is translating already part of your routine work at your unit?**

- 1 NO → IF TRANSLATING IS NOT PART OF YOUR
- 2 YES ROUTINE WORK, SKIP TO Q11.

**Q10 (If translating is already part of your routine work) what type of documents do you mostly translate? (Circle as many answers as applicable.)**

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 INSTRUCTIONS    | 5 MINUTES                      |
| 2 SPEECHES        | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
| 3 ROUTINE LETTERS | _____                          |
| 4 DAILY ORDERS    | -                              |

**Q11 What is the highest level of schooling that you have completed?**

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 NO FORMAL SCHOOLING | 4 STANDARD 10 (MATRIC)          |
| 2 STANDARD 8          | 5 OTHER (Please specify.) _____ |
| 3 STANDARD 9          | _____                           |



**Q12 Have you received any tertiary education?**

- 1 NO TERTIARY EDUCATION
- 2 SOME TECHNIKON
- 3 COMPLETED TECHNIKON DIPLOMA
- 4 SOME UNIVERSITY
- 5 COMPLETED UNIVERSITY DEGREE
- 6 SOME TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE
- 7 COMPLETED TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE
- 8 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q13 Have you attended any other courses here at D Lang?**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 DID NOT ATTEND D LANG COURSES | 6 AFRIKAANS INTERMEDIATE                            |
| 2 ENGLISH BEGINNERS             | 7 INSTRUCTORS COURSE                                |
| 3 ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE          | 8 AFRICAN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING FACILITATION COURSE |
| 4 ENGLISH ADVANCED              | 9 OTHER (Please specify) _____                      |
| 5 AFRIKAANS BEGINNERS           | _____   |

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**Q14 Why are you attending the African Language Translation Facilitation Course?**

- 1 I DON'T KNOW.
- 2 I'M ALWAYS INTERESTED IN NEW COURSES.
- 3 THERE IS NO OTHER WORK FOR ME AT THE MOMENT.
- 4 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for your cooperation!**

## Part II

### Course Evaluation

This part of the questionnaire will give you an opportunity to voice your opinion on individual course modules with regard to their relevance, comprehensibility and presentation. By answering the questions below to the best of your ability, you will help us identify problem areas regarding the *Introduction to translation*, *Translation strategies*, *Translation aids*, *Language skills* and *Workshops* modules and enable use to modify course material, where necessary.

**Circle the number of your answer.**

**Q15 Has the discussion of the quotes presented in the *Introduction to translation* module helped you understand more complex linguistic concepts (e.g. pragmatic versus semantic meaning, etc.)?**

- 1 VERY HELPFUL
- 2 GENERALLY HELPFUL
- 3 MORE CONFUSING THAN HELPFUL
- 4 NOT HELPFUL AT ALL

**Q16 Do you agree that the discussion of the quotes presented in the *Introduction to translation* module has given you a better understanding of what translation is about?**

- 1 COMPLETELY AGREE
- 2 GENERALLY AGREE
- 3 GENERALLY DISAGREE
- 4 COMPLETELY DISAGREE

**Q17 Do you think that the *quotes* section should remain part of the *Introduction to translation* module?**

- 1 YES            →        IF YOUR ANSWER IS 'YES', SKIP TO Q19.
- 2 NO

**Q18 (If your answer is *no*) what are your reasons for removing the *quotes* section from the *Introduction to translation* module? (Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)**

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 TOO THEORETICAL  | 4 NOT RELEVANT TO PRACTICAL |
| 2 INCOMPREHENSIBLE | TRANSLATION                 |
| 3 BORING           | 5 OTHER _____               |



Q19 **Do you agree that text analysis can help you in preparing your translation task?**

- 1 COMPLETELY AGREE
- 2 GENERALLY AGREE
- 3 GENERALLY DISAGREE
- 4 COMPLETELY DISAGREE

Q20 **Do you agree that text analysis, especially according to Nord, can give you the necessary confidence to change a text in terms of the translation brief?**

- 1 COMPLETELY AGREE
- 2 GENERALLY AGREE
- 3 GENERALLY DISAGREE
- 4 COMPLETELY DISAGREE

Q21 **Do you think that the section on text analysis has given you a better understanding of how different types of texts are written?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

Q22 **In your opinion, could the presentation of the *Introduction to translation* module be improved?**

- 1 NO                    →                    IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'NO', SKIP TO Q24.
- 2 YES

Q23 **(If your answer was *yes*), in which areas should the presentation be improved?**

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 MORE EXAMPLES   | 4 MORE TEACHER ENTHUSIASM      |
| 2 MORE REPETITION | 5 MORE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT     |
| 3 LESS REPETITION | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Q24 **Would you say that the *Translation strategies* module has sensitised you to the fact that vocabulary differs across languages?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

**Q25** Would you say that the *Translation strategies* module has sensitised you to the fact that languages differ with regard to their grammatical categories (e.g. tense and aspect, gender)?

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

**Q26** Would you say that the *Translation strategies* module has made you more conscious of possible ways to overcome non-equivalence at word level and above word level?

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

**Q27** Do you feel that the presentation of the *Translation strategies* module could be improved?

- 1 NO → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'NO', SKIP TO Q29.
- 2 YES

**Q28** (If your answer was 'yes'), in which areas should the presentation be improved?

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 MORE EXAMPLES   | 4 MORE TEACHER ENTHUSIASM      |
| 2 MORE REPETITION | 5 MORE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT     |
| 3 LESS REPETITION | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
|                   | -                              |
|                   | _____                          |
|                   | -                              |

**Q29** How would you rate the time spent on language tuition to improve your language skills during the African Language Translation Facilitation Course?

- 1 TOO MUCH TIME → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS '1', SKIP TO Q31
- 2 ADEQUATE TIME → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS '2', SKIP TO Q31
- 3 TOO LITTLE TIME

**Q30** (If you feel that too little time is spent on language skills) which areas would you like to receive more attention? (Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 GRAMMAR                    | 4 STYLE                  |
| 2 VOCABULARY                 | 5 OTHER (Please specify) |
| 3 IDIOMS & FIXED EXPRESSIONS | _____                    |



**Q31 In your opinion, could the presentation of the *Language skills* module be improved?**

- 1 NO → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'NO', SKIP TO Q33.  
2 YES

**Q32 (If your answer was yes), in which areas should the presentation be improved?**

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 MORE EXAMPLES   | 4 MORE TEACHER ENTHUSIASM      |
| 2 MORE REPETITION | 5 MORE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT     |
| 3 LESS REPETITION | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
|                   | -                              |
|                   | _____                          |
|                   | -                              |

**Q33 As a result of the *Translation aids* module, will you now be more critical with regard to the dictionaries you use (especially monolingual English dictionaries)?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO  
2 TO SOME EXTENT  
3 NOT REALLY  
4 NOT AT ALL

**Q34 Have the guided tours of the various libraries increased your awareness of the type of information you can get there?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO  
2 TO SOME EXTENT  
3 NOT REALLY  
4 NOT AT ALL

**Q35 In your opinion, which area of the *Translation aids* module should receive more attention?** (Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 NONE                    | 5 INSTITUTIONS                 |
| 2 PARTS OF THE DICTIONARY | 6 COMPILING WORD LISTS         |
| 3 TYPES OF DICTIONARIES   | 7 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
| 4 COMPUTERS               | _____                          |
|                           | -                              |

**Q36 Do you feel that the presentation of the translation aids section could be improved?**

- 1 NO → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'NO', SKIP TO Q38.  
2 YES

**Q37 (If your answer was yes), in which areas should the presentation be improved?**

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 MORE EXAMPLES   | 4 MORE TEACHER ENTHUSIASM      |
| 2 MORE REPETITION | 5 MORE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT     |
| 3 LESS REPETITION | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |

**Q38** Would you agree that during the workshops the practical application of more theoretical concepts (e.g. text analysis, translation strategies, etc.) has been sufficiently demonstrated?

- 1 COMPLETELY AGREE
- 2 GENERALLY AGREE
- 3 GENERALLY DISAGREE
- 4 COMPLETELY DISAGREE

**Q39** Would you say that the texts translated during the workshops are relevant to your translation environment?

- 1 YES → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'YES', SKIP TO Q41
- 2 NO

**Q40** (If your answer was *no*) which types of texts would be more adequate in your opinion? (Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important text type.)

- |             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 LEGAL     | 5 ROUTINE LETTERS              |
| 2 TECHNICAL | 6 MINUTES                      |
| 3 MEDICAL   | 7 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
| 4 SPEECHES  | _____                          |
|             | _____                          |

**Q41** In your opinion, could the presentation of the workshops be improved?

- 1 NO → IF YOUR ANSWER WAS 'NO', SKIP TO Q43.
- 2 YES

**Q42** (If your answer was *yes*), in which areas should the presentation be improved?

- 1 TEXTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN MORE DETAIL
- 2 TEXTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN LESS DETAIL
- 3 PRESENTATION SHOULD BE MORE STRUCTURED
- 4 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q43** In your opinion, how long should the African Language Translation Facilitation Course be?

- 1 2 WEEKS
- 2 4 WEEKS

3 6 WEEKS

4 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q44    Would you say that in general the African Language Translation Facilitation Course has heightened your awareness of how language works?**

- 1    VERY MUCH SO
- 2    TO SOME EXTENT
- 3    NOT REALLY
- 4    NOT AT ALL

**Q45    Would you say that the African Language Translation Facilitation Course has helped to improve your overall language capabilities?**

- 1    VERY MUCH SO
- 2    TO SOME EXTENT
- 3    NOT REALLY
- 4    NOT AT ALL

**Q46    Would you say that the African Language Translation Facilitation Course has prepared you to tackle the translation tasks at your unit in a more professional manner?**

- 1    VERY MUCH SO
- 2    TO SOME EXTENT
- 3    NOT REALLY
- 4    NOT AT ALL

**Q47    Would you say that the African Language Translation Facilitation Course has prepared you to tackle the translation tasks at your unit in a more confident manner?**

- 1    VERY MUCH SO
- 2    TO SOME EXTENT
- 3    NOT REALLY
- 4    NOT AT ALL

**Q48    Would you like to comment in your own words on the various modules of the African Language Translation Facilitation Course? (If there is not enough space, use the empty page below.)**

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Q49 **Would you like to comment in your own words on the African Language Translation Facilitation Course as a whole? (If there is not enough space, use the empty page below.)**

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**Thanks for your cooperation!**



### Part III Post-Course Evaluation

Your answers to the questions asked in this part of the questionnaire will help us establish whether you have performed translation tasks at your unit after returning from the African Language Translation Facilitation Course and whether you find the material presented during the course relevant to your working environment.

**Circle the number of your answer.**

**Q50 Have you performed any translation tasks at your unit since your return from the African Language Translation Facilitation Course?**

- 1 NO      →      IF YOU HAVE NOT TRANSLATED AT YOUR UNIT SINCE YOUR  
2 YES                      RETURN FROM THE COURSE, SKIP TO Q58.

**Q51 (If you have translated at your unit since your return) how often have you translated?**

- 1 VERY OFTEN  
2 OFTEN  
3 EVERY NOW AND AGAIN  
4 HARDLY EVER

**Q52 What type of documents have you mostly translated?** (Circle as many answers as are applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)

- |                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 INSTRUCTIONS    | 5 MINUTES                      |
| 2 SPEECHES        | 6 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
| 3 ROUTINE LETTERS | _____                          |
| 4 DAILY ORDERS    |                                |

**Q53 Do you feel that the material presented in the translation facilitation course is relevant to your working environment?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO  
2 TO SOME EXTENT  
3 NOT REALLY  
4 NOT AT ALL

**Q54 Which aspects of the course have you found most useful?** (Circle as many answers as are applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 THEORY        | 8 OTHER (Please specify) _____ |
| 2 WORKSHOPS     | _____                          |
| 3 TEXT ANALYSIS | _____                          |

- 4 TRANSLATION STRATEGIES - \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 TEXT-TYPE EXERCISES - \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 ENGLISH TUITION \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 AFRICAN LANGUAGE TUITION - \_\_\_\_\_

**Q55 Why did you find this (these) particular aspect(s) most useful?** Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important..

- 1 CREATED LINGUISTIC AWARENESS
- 2 CREATED AWARENESS OF NON-LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS (e.g. culture-related translation problems)
- 3 HELPS ME TO FIND RELEVANT INFORMATION
- 4 IMPROVED MY ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
- 5 GAVE ME PRACTICAL ADVICE ON HOW TO TACKLE TRANSLATION TASKS
- 6 CONFIDENCE BOOSTER
- 5 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Q56 Do you think that the translation facilitation course has given you guidelines to translate more confidently?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

**Q57 With your recent translation experience in mind, how could the translation facilitation course be improved?** (Circle as many answers as applicable and number the answers chosen at the end of the item in order of priority, with 1 being the most important.)

- 1 LESS THEORY
- 2 MORE PRACTICE
- 3 MORE TEXT ANALYSIS
- 4 MORE TERMINOLOGY EXERCISES
- 5 MORE EMPHASIS ON TEXT TYPES
- 6 MORE ENGLISH TUITION
- 7 PROPER AFRICAN LANGUAGE TUITION
- 8 OTHER (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Q58 Do people at your unit know that you are available for routine translation tasks?**

- 1 YES
- 2 I DON'T KNOW
- 3 NO

**Q59 In retrospect, do you still feel that the translation facilitation course has improved your overall language capabilities?**

- 1 VERY MUCH SO
- 2 TO SOME EXTENT
- 3 NOT REALLY
- 4 NOT AT ALL

**Q60 What would you consider to be the right duration of the course?**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 4 WEEKS           | 4 TWICE FOR 4 WEEKS |
| 2 6 WEEKS           | 5 OTHER _____       |
| 3 TWICE FOR 3 WEEKS | - _____             |
|                     | - _____             |

**Q61 Would you like to comment in your own words on the translation facilitation course and your experience as a translation facilitator?**

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**Thank your for your cooperation!**