

The Inclusion of Cultural Meanings in Northern Sotho Dictionaries

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ABSTRACT Many Northern Sotho words in various dictionaries are treated not taking into account the cultural attributes with which they are associated. These dictionaries are often bilingual and were mostly compiled by non-native speakers of the language. Ziervogel and Mokgokong's *Comprehensive Northern Sotho Dictionary* (1975) seems to be the only dictionary that contains description of words in various denotations, including their cultural context. It explains meanings and gives cultural information about them. As nine of the eleven official languages in South Africa are African languages, new dictionaries which explain the words both in general and cultural terms are necessary. The cultural context of the words is important because the nature of the interaction between people and their culture is revealed.