#### **Preface**

No other linguist in Botswana has delved into the study and publication of Botswana languages as extensively as Andy Chebanne. Over the past four decades, he has devoted his life to the examination of Setswana, Ikalanga, and diverse Khoisan languages, addressing contentious matters like language in education and linguistic rights for marginalized communities. This compilation of articles serves as a tribute to the profound impact of this exceptional linguist on the domain of language and linguistics in Botswana and Africa at large.

Anderson Chebanne, fondly called Andy, was born on 21 August 1959 in Nswawzi village in the Tutume District of Botswana. He started primary school in that village and then moved to Mater Spei College in Francistown for his Junior and Senior secondary education taking science subjects. He attempted Sciences at the University of Botswana and Swaziland and then switched to the Humanities. He left for France before finishing his degree in the Humanities. In France, he undertook a Licence in Language Sciences, then read for a Master of Arts in Languages Sciences and Pedagogy. In 1987, he did an MPhil in Languages Sciences and then proceeded to do his doctorate in language Sciences which he completed in 1991. His doctorate supervisor was Denis Creissels with whom he went on to publish a pioneering book, *Tonal Morphology of the Setswana Verb* (LINCOM EUROPA, 1997). Andy Chebanne is a Full Professor of languages and Linguistics.

He was recruited by the University of Botswana in 1983 to join the staff at the entry rank of *Staff Development Fellow* in French. He was promoted to lectureship in 1984. In 1985, he was appointed a Faculty Tutor, a post he held for two years until 1987. In 1991 after completing his doctoral studies, he returned to being a Faculty Tutor. He was appointed Deputy Dean of Humanities in 1998 after attaining the rank of Senior Lecturer, a post he held until 2004. During his administrative role as a Faculty Tutor and Deputy Dean, he continued to pursue research on the languages of Botswana, mainly Setswana, and Ikalanga. His research collaboration with linguists such as Rainer Vossen (University of Frankfurt, Germany), Jan Snyman (University of South Africa), Anthony Traill (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa), and his doctoral student, Hirosi Nakagawa, led him to take a keen interest in Khoisan languages of Botswana. He was later joined by other collaborators such as Tom Guldemann (while at Leipzig), Matthais Breizinger, Anne-Marie Fehn, and Christfried Naumann. He has also collaborated with Christopher Collins of the University of New York which collaboration was focused on documentation of under-research Khoisan languages of Botswana.

Professor Chebanne's extensive scholarly contributions have resulted in the publication of several books, primarily co-published, underscoring his research focus on African languages, linguistics, and lexicography.

- Chebanne, A. & A. Lusekelo (Eds) (2021). *African Languages: Linguistic, Literary and Social Issues*. CASAS / UWC: Cape Town, South Africa.
- Chebanne, A. and Hirosi Nakagawa (Editors). (2018). Anthony Traill: A Trilingual !Xóõ Dictionary !Xóõ English Setswana. RÜDIGER KÖPPE VERLAG KÖLN 2018. Cologne, Germany
- Chebanne, A. & Mathangwane, JT. (2013). *Kalanga Cuisine*. Botswana Society: Gaborone Chebanne, A. Mosaka, N, & Gabanamotse-Mogara (2012). *Metalanguage of Common Medical Terms in Three Bantu Languages*. Kletop Publishing. Gaborone.

- Chebanne, A. & D. Schmidt. 2010. *Kalanga Summary Grammar*. CASAS Book Series 75. Cape Town
- Chebanne, A., H, Chimhundu, and W. Magwa (2010): *Harmonization of Shona-Nyai Language varieties*. CASAS Book Series No. 72.
- Chebanne, A., Kamwendo, G., Jankie, D. (2009): Multilingualism in Education and Communities in Southern Africa. ISBN 978 99912-0-862-6. UB-Tromso Basarwa/San Research Collaborative, University of Botswana
- Chebanne, A. M. Jokweni; M. I. Mokitimi; and S. Ngubane (editors) (2003): *Unifying Southern African Languages: Harmonization and Standardization*. Edited by A. Chebanne et al. CASAS. Book Series No. 32. Cape Town.
- Chebanne, A. and J. Creissels (1999): French-Tswana Dictionary (with Tswana-French Index), Tasalls Publishing and Books, Gaborone.
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- Chebanne, A. & Rodewald, M & Pahlen, K (1995): Atikwaleni Ikalanga: Manual on the writing of Kalanga as is spoken in Botswana. 125 pages. Gaborone: Botswana Society, 1995.

Prof Chebanne has also published numerous articles in conference proceedings, as book chapters, refereed academic journal articles, technical reports, and creative works. His refereed journal articles cover rich diverse areas of research interest demonstrating his academic and intellectual maturity. A selection of these is included at the end of this preface.

Prof. Chebanne has a rich professional service record which covers his service to the University, the society, and the broader professional linguistic community. He has reviewed numerous articles for journal publication, assessed master's and doctoral theses, and served on numerous national and international boards. Some of his services include,

- 2008 to 2014: External Examiner in African Languages and Linguistics, University of Namibia
- 2. 2005: CASAS Expert on the Conference on Harmonization of Ugandan Language, July 12 -14, 2005
- 3. 2002: Linguistic advisor. Naro Orthography Review Workshop, March 11 –13, 2002., D'Kar.
- 4. 2002: Collaborated in preparing and hosting a UN Conference on Multiculturalism in Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, 18 22 February 2002.
- 5. 2001: Language advisor for the Kalanga Bible Translation Project, Old Testament Translation, ongoing
- 6. 1999: February 25 27. Conducted a UNESCO-sponsored Workshop on Adult Literacy for Ikalanga, Francistown.
- 7. 1997: Invited to the NARO orthography Workshop where he assisted in establishing the orthography of the Naro language.
- 8. 1995: to present, Advisory role to the Lutheran Literacy Project in Botswana and Botswana languages Project (A Lutheran Literacy Survey Project International).
- 9. 1993 to 1994: Worked closely with the Kalanga Bible Translation Project to prepare for a Kalanga Research Conference (March 1994), and an Orthography Conference in July, 1994. Thereafter he was invited to join the Kalanga language Editorial Committee.

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In his three-year (2008-2010) as the Deputy Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS), Prof. Chebanne was involved in an Africa-wide agenda for the development and harmonization of African language orthographies. This work took him to many African countries, mainly the work on South Sudan language orthographies, Khoisan orthographies of Southern Africa, and the harmonization of Sotho-Tswana, Shona-Nyai, and Nguni language orthographies. He has traveled widely into many African countries to promote African language orthographies and literacy materials development.

In 2014, he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Botswana. As Dean (2014 – 2020) Prof. Chebanne was key in developing Faculty and University strategies that have shaped the current University of Botswana Strategy of transformation. Before this strategic role, he was Chair of the Faculty of Education and Humanities Committee on the Review of the Academic Organizational Structure (ROAS). This was preceded by his role in the University-wide Committee on Academic Regulations Review.

Currently, Prof. Chebanne is a consultant and languages advisor in the implementation of the Botswana Languages in Education Policy, which seeks to introduce all Botswana local languages in education at lower primary school levels. This project benefits from Andy Chebanne's wealth of experience in researching Botswana languages. He is helping develop and implement orthographies for Khoisan languages for literacy materials development.

Professor Chebanne stands as an accomplished scholar whose research efforts have significantly elevated the standing of the University of Botswana. His extensive partnerships and collaborations with colleagues from diverse countries have played a pivotal role in fostering knowledge exchange and advancing research. Those who have collaborated with him on local and international projects can attest to his generous and kind nature, qualities that have been instrumental in propelling him to success in situations where others might have faced challenges. Demonstrating resilience and patience, he consistently cultivates harmonious relationships with his colleagues.

Professor Chebanne is a member of various academic bodies such as *The Linguistic Association* of Southern African Development Community Universities, The African Languages Association of Southern Africa, The San Research Centre (University of Botswana), and The Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society.

It is therefore my privilege to compile a festschrift as a tribute to one of Botswana's exceptional scholars. We, his colleagues, and friends, extend our best wishes to Professor Andy Chebanne on his retirement. We wish him a long life, and good health and hope that he will dedicate this phase of his life to research and national service.

Professor Thapelo J. Otlogetswe December, 2023 Gaborone, Botswana

## A Selection of Andy Chebanne's Publications

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### **Book Chapters**

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