

**Challenges Facing the Accused in the Use of English Only in
Criminal Court Proceedings: Experiences from the Vhembe
District, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Lekau Eleazar Mphasha¹ and Tshilidzi Constance Mutele²

¹M. E. R. Mathivha Centre for African Languages, Arts and Culture, Department of Northern Sotho, ²Department of Social Work, University of Venda, School of Human and Social Sciences, Private Bag X5050, Thohoyandou 0950, Limpopo Province, South Africa
Telephone: ¹<015 268 8389> ²<015 268 8238>, Cell: ¹<072 192 1392>, ²<084 619 4656>
E-mail: ¹<lekau.mphasha@univen.ac.za>, ²<constance.mutele@univen.ac.za>

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ABSTRACT The choice of language to use in South African courts is still a subject which gives rise to emotional debates in the public domain. In the Vhembe District Courts of Law, it is found that English is used as a language for case trials at the expense of African languages. Interpreting is a challenging activity because some languages do not always have words that allow a direct interpreting. The present research seeks to investigate interpreting or misinterpreting activities in courts of law in the Vhembe District. The conclusion of the case may completely change the verdict of guilty or not guilty. An interpreter should know both the source and target languages fluently and must make sure that the information is translated correctly and precisely. This research will be accomplished by analyzing interpretation in the courts of law in the Vhembe District.