

The use of indigenous languages as languages of instruction in Higher Education.

Professor Dennis Schauffer

Honorary Research Fellow

Durban University of Technology

Language

- Language has always been a major issue in the sub-continent of Africa. At various stages in the colonisation process the local San and Nguni languages were challenged for dominance, at different times, by Dutch, English, French, Portuguese, and German languages.

Oral Cultures

- While the major societies of the Asian continent were strongly affected by the expansion of Europeans, they were more rarely 'colonies' in the, American and Oceanic sense... Their written traditions have provided them with a more solid basis for cultural resistance than is the case with most oral cultures and Southern African indigenous languages are all the products of oral cultures.

Language struggles in South Africa

- **The struggle of the Afrikaners against British Imperialist rule and the struggle for the official recognition of the Afrikaans language (Die Taalstryd).**
- **The struggle of the black community against white rule and the struggle for official recognition of vernacular African languages.**

Section 30 of the South African Constitution

- Everyone has the right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions where that education is reasonably practicable.

ACADEMIC OBJECTIONS

- These are not ‘international’ languages.
- There are no accredited journals in these languages. As an academic I will be disadvantaged as this will affect my publication record, reward money, ability to present papers at international conferences etc.
- There are no relevant publications in the library in these languages.
- ...and so on.

On the other hand...

- **Language has been and continues to be a barrier to access and success in education.**
- **African languages have not developed as academic/scientific languages.**
- **The majority of students entering higher education in South Africa are not proficient in English or Afrikaans.**

So what is the solution?

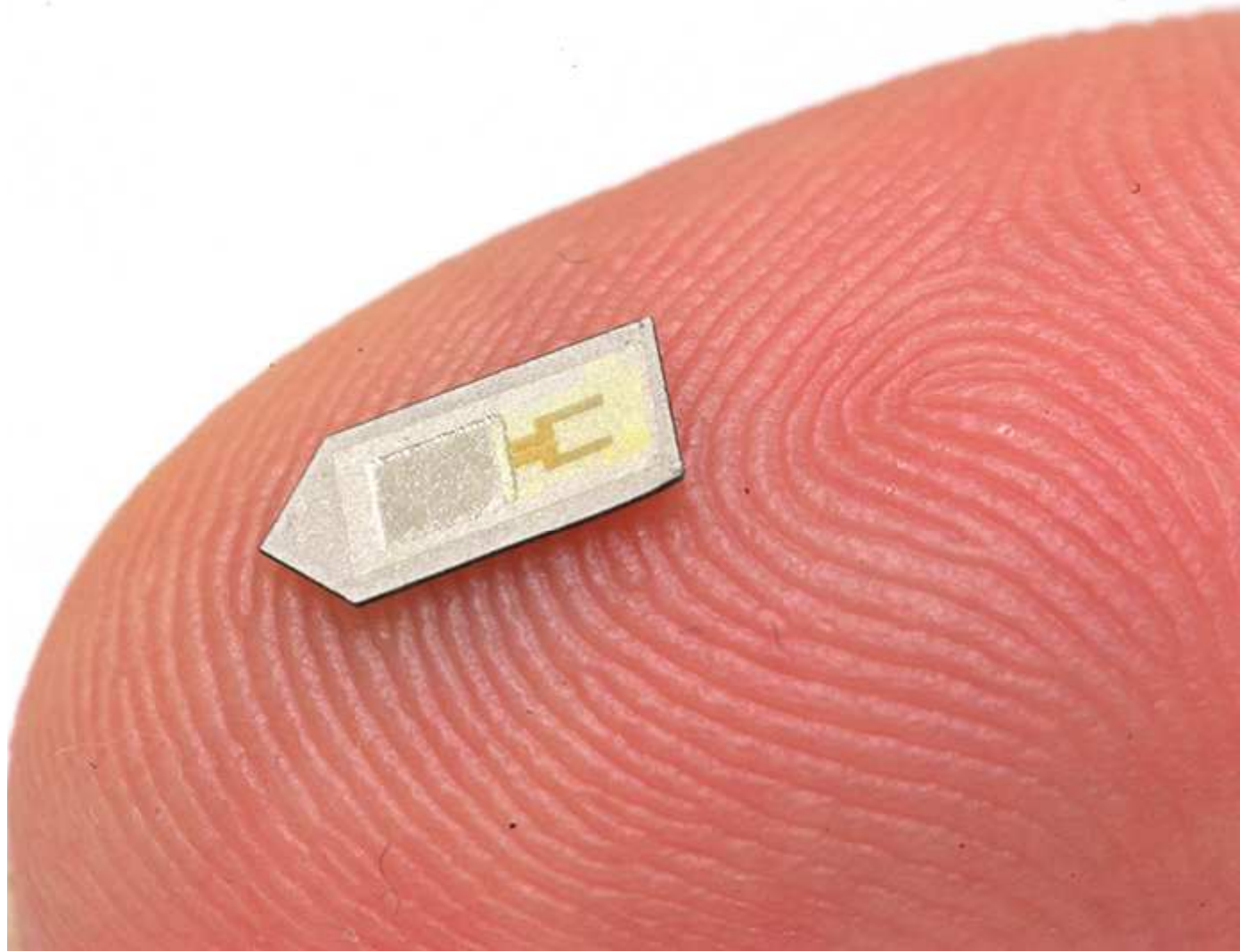
- There was great excitement when the news spread of a **language chip implant**.

Nano-Chip Brain Implant Allows Users to Instantly Speak Foreign Language

Posted on April 01, 2011. Tags: [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [DOD](#), [Language](#), [Libya](#), [military](#), [nano-chip](#)
Posted by [P. Beckert](#)



The first-ever nano-chip language translators are rolling off the assembly line and into cosmetic surgeons' offices. Whether you can say "¿Se Habla Español?" No longer will it be necessary for those wishing to learn a second



PROBLEM SOLVED?

- Not so fast! Take a look at the date at the top left corner... April 1st! APRIL FOOL'S DAY.

Nano-Chip Brain Implant Allows Users to Instantly Speak Foreign Language

Posted on April 01, 2011. Tags: [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [DOD](#), [Language](#), [Libya](#), [military](#), [nano-chip](#)

Posted by [P. Beckert](#)



The first-ever nano-chip language translators are rolling off the assembly line and into cosmetic surgeons' offices. Whether you can say "Se Habla Espanol?" No longer will it be necessary for those wishing to learn a second