

Gender terminology research in Afrikaans with corpus data: collecting, enhancing, and finding meaning

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GO::DH CONVERSATIONS

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Structure

- Afrikaans - short intro
- Collection of gender terminology
- Terminology and corpora
- Pejorative terminology
- So far and the way forward

Afrikaans - short intro

- Official language in SA since 1925 (with Dutch) and then 1961 (with English)
- One of 11 official languages since 1996
- Highly conservative part of the speaking community
 - Norms of the language ~ norms of the society
- Officially a young language with good representation in different spheres
- More on the Wikipedia page about [Afrikaans](#)

Collection of gender terminology

- Online pieces / blogs
 - [Myburgh & Luther \(2020\)](#), [Trollip \(2020\)](#), [Trollip & Lötter \(2020\)](#)
- Word lists
 - [Tshisimani's Queerpedia](#)
 - [CGE's wordlist](#)

~ 117 terms

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- Pejoratives - not included in any sources

~ 131 terms

Terminology and corpora

- Virtual Institute for Afrikaans ([VivA](#)) hosts online corpora
 - [Comprehensive corpus](#)
 - Open
 - Mostly **edited texts ~ 250 million words**
 - Exclusive corpus
 - Possible offensive nature requires application
 - Mostly **unedited texts ~ 46 million words**

Afrikaans term	English equivalent	Frequency: VivA-CPC	Frequency: VivA-CPE	Notes
gay*	gay	5629	860	* Afr option also (less pej.): gay persoon
skeef	<i>skew / crooked (pej.)</i>	3448*	566*	* needs disambiguation
moffie*	<i>faggot (pej.)</i>	544	100	* Includes references to the film
mof	<i>fag (pej.)</i>	171*	27*	needs disambiguation
queer	queer	167	15	
homofobie*	homophobia	160	18	* one of many phobias
sissie	<i>sissy (pej.)</i>	136	58	
trassie	<i>tranny (pej.)</i>	23	8	
seksloos*+	sexless	12	0	* corpus hits indicate meanings relating to sex being withheld from someone '+ translated as being synonymous with asexual
mofgat	<i>fag (pej.)</i>	4	11	

PEJORATIVE TERMINOLOGY

- General research on pejorative meaning
 - Informal
 - Group identity
 - Defamatory
- Gender specific pejoratives
- Examples
 - mof, skeef, trassie
 - **moffiepienk** “faggot pink” ~ ‘very pink’, **moffie-koffie** “faggot coffee” ~ ‘cheap / instant / weak coffee’,
moffie-skeidsregter “faggot referee” ~ ‘referee that cheated my team’

So far and the way forward

- Presented at IGALA11 - [abstract](#) and [presentation](#)
- Continuing on current trajectory
 - Cross-checking publications with text sources
 - *Skeef* - Renaldo Schwarp (2021)
 - *Uit* - Fanie Viljoen (2014)
 - Adding more sources
 - [‘Having to use English others us’: South African terminologies of sexual and gender diversity](#) - Lynch et al. (2021)
- Incorporating aspects or influences from Gayle (anti-language)

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Baie dankie and *thank you* for your attention

Any questions and discussion welcome