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# STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES OF USING SMS FOR VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT – A CASE STUDY

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Overview

- Language Situation in South Africa

- Potential of Mobile Learning in South Africa

- The Study

- Findings

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The Language Situation in South Africa

- 11 official languages
- The position of Afrikaans
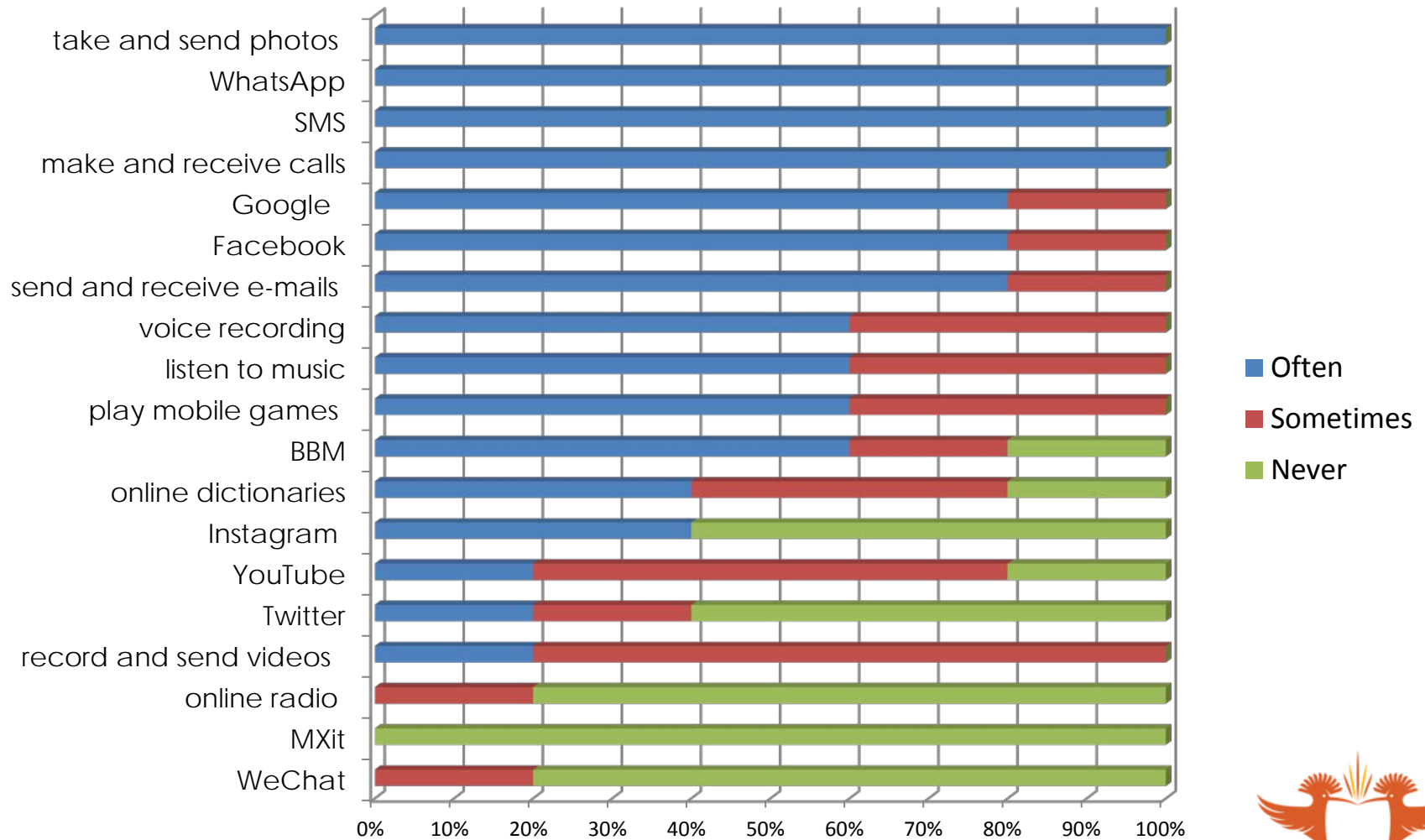- Students' exposure to Afrikaans
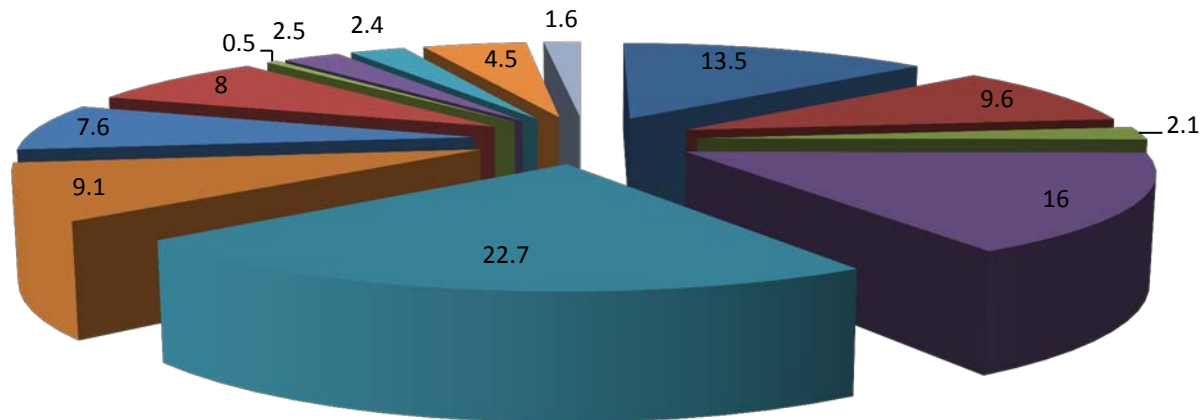
Mobile Learning in South Africa

- **E-learning vs M-learning**

- **Mobile phones**
  - Increase in use : 17 % (2000) > 76 % (2010)
  - Change in use

- **Pre-study questionnaire**

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Results of pre-study questionnaire

The Study

- Purpose: potential of SMS for vocabulary development

- Research Design
  - Case study
  - Small group (5) students
  - SMS mini-lessons
  - Preferences
  - Open-ended questionnaires

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+ Convenience
+ Conciseness
+Multimedia
- Individual vs Group SMSs
* Recommendations

+ **Advantages of WhatsApp**
+ **Sound and pictures**
+ **Voice Notes**

Mixed experiences
- Self-activity
- Pictures and sound
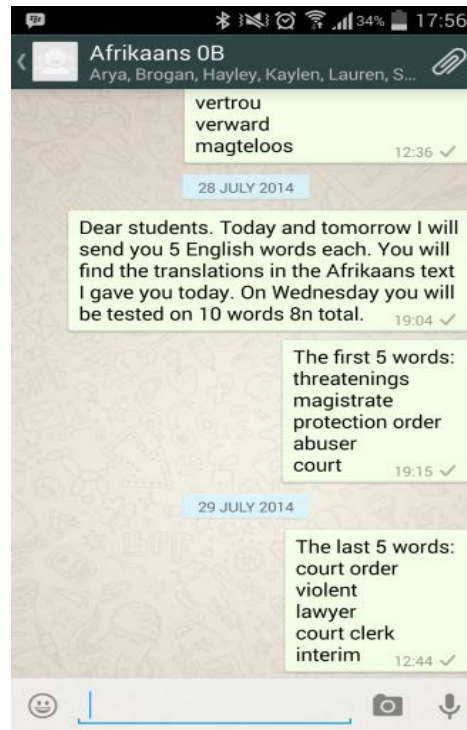
Students Prefer Words in
Target Language
- Time-consuming
- Harder to remember
- Absence of context

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Week 5: Words + translation + picture + sound
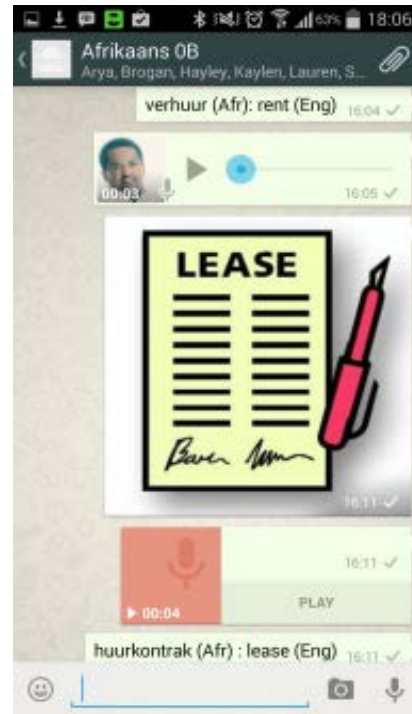
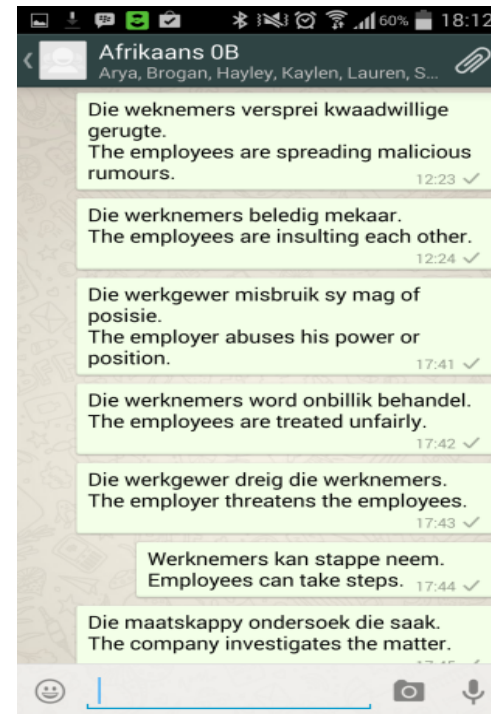Confirmed value of voice notes
Preference (order):
Target word followed by Picture then Sound
then Translation
(Further Investigation)

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Week 6: Phrases
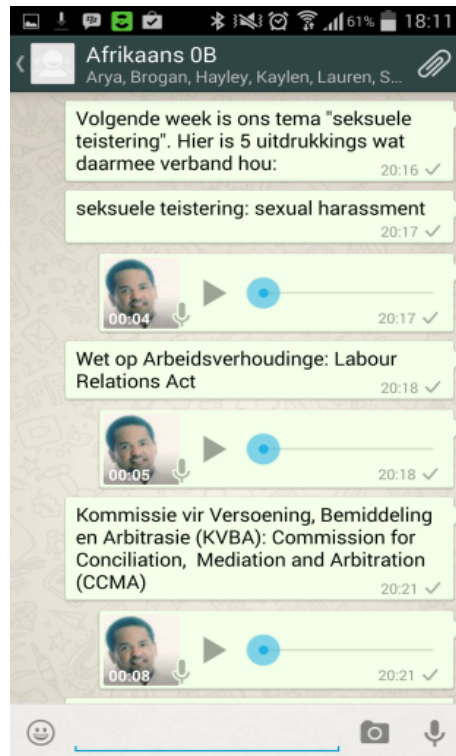
- **Higher level of difficulty**

Week 7: Sentences

"It [the use of SMS lessons] made me realize how much my Afrikaans has expanded because I was able to understand some of the sentences without having to look at the English." (Student)

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SUMMARY:
The Choice of App

- LESSONS LEARNED:

    - Students should be comfortable with the App you choose

    - Group SMSs (with clear instructions) are more practical

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SUMMARY:
Anywhere, anytime learning

- LESSONS LEARNED:

  - Receiving lesson content anywhere, anytime is a big plus for students

  - Having everything accumulated on their phone is an added advantage.

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SUMMARY:
The size and content of lessons

- LESSONS LEARNED:

  - Single words, phrases and sentences can be used depending on level

  - There seems to be a general preference for "bite-sized" lessons

  - Students value the use of pictures and sound

  - Voice notes help students with pronunciation

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Thank you / Baie dankie