

## Public Lecture Series

# Language and Science in Africa: English as Medium of Instruction

**Speaker:** Ian Raper

Former Dean of Education, Arts and Science at the University of Venda.  
Founder, Liivha Combined School, Thohoyandou  
President of S2A3

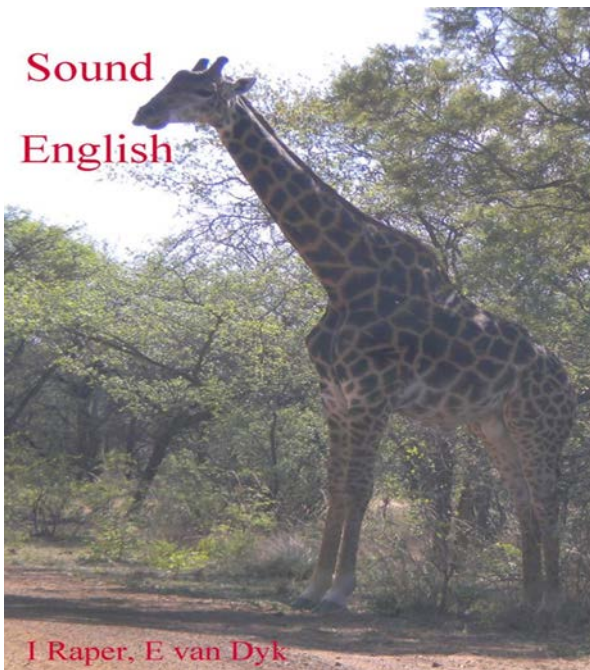
**On:** Wednesday, 2 September 2015

**At:** 18h00 (to 19h00)

**Venue:** Sci-Enza, Main Campus, University of Pretoria

(Note: The Prospect Street entrance is open until 18:00, however the Lynnwood Road or Lunnon Road entrances only close much later. See <http://s2a3.org.za/directions.php> for directions and a map.)

English as medium of instruction poses particular challenges for speakers of the major African family of



languages, the largest in terms of geographical area, number of speakers, and number of distinct languages. Included in this Niger-Congo family are the languages of South Africa are characterised by many shared features, notably the concord sentence construction. The talk covers the specific structural aspects of language confronting users of English as language of tuition, an "additional" language within the education system and its use in scientific, public and commercial spheres. The MEC for Education in Gauteng and the Minister of Higher Education have recently expressed their concern over the obstacles learners and students are facing.

Dr Raper will introduce Sound English as a radical, linguistics-based approach to overcoming the obstacles.

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