News

Let's write in our African languages: Clean Air Journal's inclusive language policy

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One way of taking action to improve air quality is to disseminate knowledge and educate people using languages that the majority of people understand. This is another form of citizen science, which allows individuals from diverse backgrounds to actively participate in scientific research, thereby generating new knowledge and understanding (Cardamone and Lobel, 2016).

The Clean Air Journal has introduced an inclusive language policy (https://cleanairjournal.org.za/InclusiveLanguage) which aims at improving the accessibility of research published in the journal. The policy allows for additional abstracts, written or narrated in any African language, to be published. An African language is considered to be any of the over 2000 languages spoken in Africa.

Several authors have contributed additional abstracts to the Clean Air Journal. Audio abstracts have been submitted by Bianca Wernecke for Wernecke et al. (2021) (https://cleanairjournal.org.za/article/view/9426) and by Rebecca Garland for Borduas-Dedekind et al. (2023) (https://cleanairjournal.org.za/article/view/15367). Dingemanse et al. (2022) have translated their abstract into Amharic, an official language of Ethiopia (https://cleanairjournal.org.za/article/view/13470/20567). Pieter Van Zyl submitted an Afrikaans abstract, for Swarz et al. 2022 (https://cleanairjournal.org.za/article/view/12866/20599).

Authors wishing to submit a translated or verbal abstract should express their intent to do so when their manuscript is accepted for publication. Accompanying the translated abstract should be a certification of translation (see the example at https://cleanairjournal.org.za/InclusiveLanguage). The certification of translation serves to confirm that the abstract (written or verbal) is an accurate translation of the content in the English abstract.

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