The Unification of The Shona Dialects
By Clement M. Doke, M.A., D.Litt.
A photographic reprint with an introduction by Herbert Chimhundu

This volume is a re-issue of Doke’s Report of 1931 in the form of a photographic reprint, with an introduction by Professor Herbert Chimhundu of the University of Zimbabwe. For greater usefulness, the introduction is also summarised in Shona.

Doke’s Report remains the major reference point in the history of the development of Shona as a standard written language. Doke’s recommendations on Shona are the basis for Shona orthography, and accordingly for Shona literature language description and Shona dictionaries. General policy on language in Zimbabwe has also been deeply influenced by Doke’s recommendations in the Report, even on other issues that were peripheral to his main topic. This book is still essential reading, not only for students of Shona at tertiary level (especially those taking courses on dialects and orthography), but for everyone with an interest in the development of Shona as a standard language.

The Report on the Unification of Shona has been out of print for a long time. The ALLEX Project has therefore decided to produce this re-issue for limited circulation. The introduction sets Doke’s report against its proper background, and gives an in-depth review of the development of Shona orthography up to the present.

Chinangwa chikuru pakutsikisa bhuku rino patsva, rava nenhanganyaya yakanyorwa naMuzvinafundo Herbert Chimhundu, ndechokuti vadzidzi nevamwe vaverengi vawane nhoroondo yakakwana yeLebaho yeMuzvinafundo Clement M. Doke muna 1931. Izvi zvinobatsira kuti munhu wese anowise kukosha kwenzhaka yatakasyirwa naDoke nokuMusungira kwaiwa mutauro wedu kuburikidza nezvinyorwa zvakasinya-siyana, zvava kubudiswa mauni zviri kurumba zwichingwanda.

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