

African Wordnet - digital documentation and preservation of indigenous knowledge

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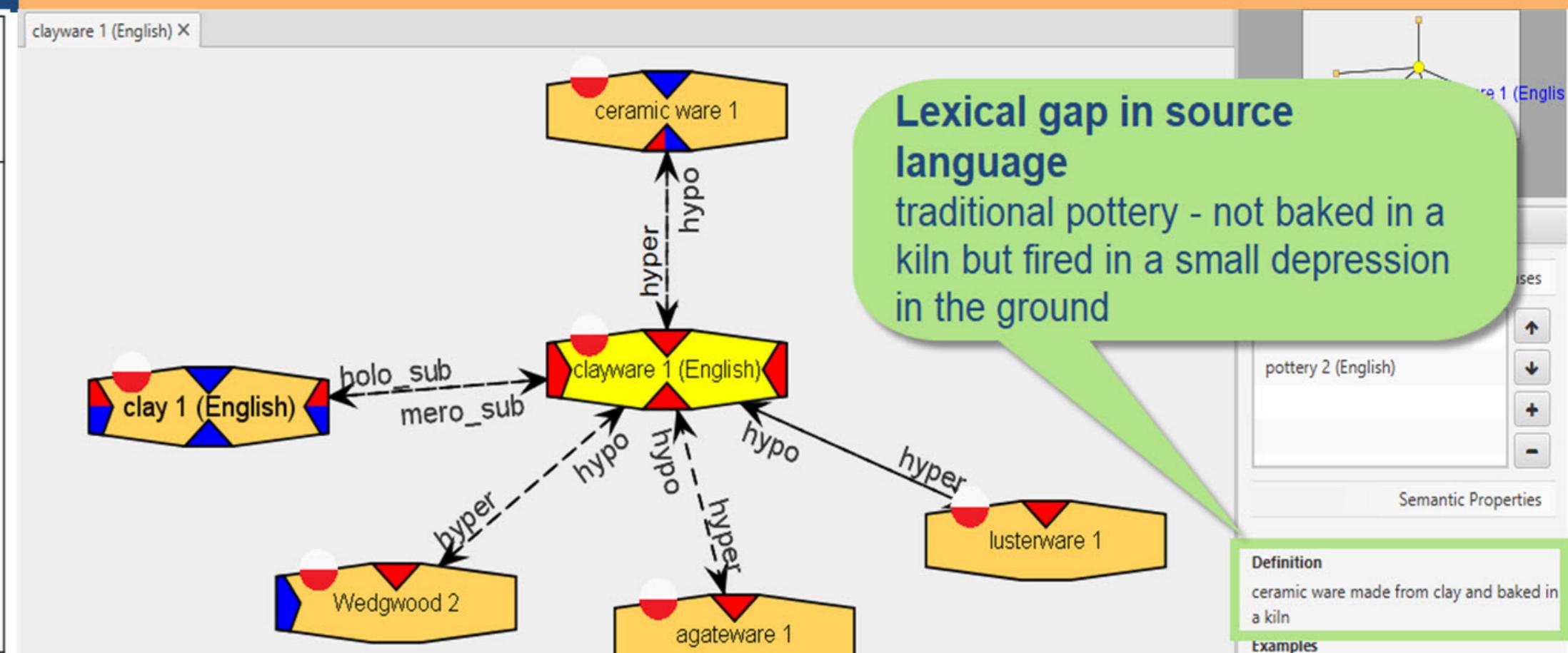
Indigenous knowledge concepts in isiZulu, collected from a variety of sources such as monolingual and bilingual dictionaries can be transformed from alphabetically ordered entries into a hierarchical wordnet structure as a set of relations. The ensuing synsets can further be enriched and lexical gaps filled with information from other cultural resources to transcend the physical limitations of such traditional sources by including definitions, usage examples, pictures and dialect information. The multilingual African Wordnet can be used as important tool in the globalisation of Africa's indigenous knowledge systems, thereby contributing to language empowerment through revitalization of culture and knowledge.

South African indigenous languages	Status quo of the AWN			
	Language	Completed synsets	Completed definitions	Completed usage examples
	Setswana	16 803	6 270	8 203
	IsiXhosa	15 715	5 568	8 015
	IsiZulu	12 782	5 742	6 112
	Sesotho sa Leboa	10 412	4 240	6 253
	Tshivenda	5 270	1 210	5 270
	Siswati	1000	1000	1000
	Sesotho	1000	1000	1000
	isiNdebele	1000	1000	1000
	Xitsonga	1000	1000	1000
	TOTAL unverified	62 982	27 480	38 853

Indigenous knowledge from various sources

Type of beer vessel	Definition	Usage example (Leipzig Corpora Collection, 2019)	Image
imbiza Synonyms: <i>isichumo</i> <i>ingcazi</i>	<i>isitsha sebumba esikhulu</i> <i>kukhamba esisetshenziswa</i> <i>ukufaka nokuphisela</i> <i>utshwala, ubude:</i> 50-90 cm. (a clay vessel larger than ukhamba, used for storage and brewing of beer, height 50-90 cm)	<i>Mina ngazi ukuthi</i> <i>ukhamba lufuza</i> imbiza.	
uphiso	<i>ukhamba olukhulu</i> <i>olunomlomo oncane</i> <i>ophakeme olusetshenziswe</i> <i>ukuthwala utshwala,</i> <i>nkabamudwa:</i> 20-30 cm. (a large ukhamba with a small rimmed mouth used for transporting beer, diameter: 20-30 cm)	Umlomo wophiso <i>uvimbela</i> <i>ukuchitha</i> <i>kotshwala.</i>	
ukhamba Synonyms: <i>ushengele</i> <i>udiyo</i> <i>udiwo</i> Hyponyms: <i>isitokwe</i> <i>umkhele</i> <i>umkhamba</i> <i>isikhamba</i>	<i>isitsha sebumba sokuphuzela</i> <i>utshwala ngesinye isikhathi</i> <i>ngenkezo, ubude:</i> 18 cm. (a clay vessel for serving beer occasionally with a ladle, height: 18 cm)	Ukhamba <i>lenziwa</i> <i>ngobumba,</i> <i>lenziwa abantu</i> <i>besifazane,</i> <i>bashisia ubumba</i> <i>emiliveni ukuze</i> ukhamba <i>luzoqina.</i>	
umancishana Synonym: <i>umancintshana</i>	<i>ukhamba lotshwala oluncane</i> <i>kakhulu olusetshenziswa</i> <i>ngabantu abancintshanayo.</i> <i>Ubude:</i> 8-12 cm, <i>umthamo:</i> 500 – 1500 ml. (a small version of ukhamba used by stingy people for serving beer to guests or the spirits of the ancestors.)	Kunezinhlobo <i>eziningi</i> <i>njengembiza</i> nomancishana <i>nezinye.</i>	

Lexical gaps: PWN vs isiZulu



Resulting synset represented in WordnetLoom

