

ELEMENTARY
LESSONS IN
CAPE DUTCH

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Elementary Lessons in Cape Dutch

(AFRIKANDER TAAL)

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P R E F A C E

The "Afrikander Taal" is an offshoot (it can scarcely be called a dialect) of the Dutch language ("Netherlands" or—in South Africa—"Hollands"). It has considerably simplified its grammar, dropping most of the inflections, and is therefore much easier to learn.

The aim of this little book is entirely practical, and it does not pretend to be in any sense exhaustive, only to impart such a notion of the language as may be made the foundation for its fuller acquisition on the spot.

It may be usefully supplemented by the *English Afrikander Vocabulary*, now in course of publication by Messrs W. Blackwood & Son.

The spelling used in this book is that sanctioned by *Di Genootskap fan regte Afrikaners*. But the practice of the small number of Taal writers is by no means uniform, and in *Eerste Beginfels van di Afrikaanse Taal*, published under the auspices of the above society, we find *van, ver, voor*, for

fan, etc. But as these differences do not affect the sound, and we are only concerned with the *spoken* language, this is not a point of much importance.

It remains to give a few hints on pronunciation, so far as this can be done in print.

a, e, i, o, all sound much the same as in French or German.

u, when long, approximates to the French *u* in *lune* or German *ü* in *für*; when short, it has a sound somewhat between this and the English short *u* in *but*.

y, sometimes written ei (*fontein*, —*ry*) = English *a* in *fate*.

ii (ie) = Fr. *ie* or English *ee* in *thee*.

oe = English *oo* in *too*; German *u* in *gut*.

oo = English *o* in *stone*.

ui = almost like German *ö* in *böse*,—no exact English sound.

g is always a guttural, like German *ch* or *g* in *wagen* (as pronounced in Southern Germany); sometimes written *ch*.

j as in German = English *y* in *year*.

s is nearly always = English *z*.

w = English *v*.

The small amount of Afrikander literature available (mostly published at Paarl, Cape Colony), is useful, in the absence of oral practice, for getting an insight into the idioms, etc., of the language.

The official language of the late Transvaal and O.F.S. governments, in which speeches

were delivered in the Volksraden and sermons preached, is an old-fashioned Dutch, approximating to the language of the States Bible (1634),—the authorised version which has always been used in all Dutch-speaking countries.

Any suggestions calculated to increase the usefulness of the "Lessons" will be welcomed by the authors.

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