

MODEL TRANSLATION OF *AFRIKA EN HET WESTEN*

- **Boldface** represents the main translation
- **Forward slashes** are used to separate (more or less equally good) alternatives. The first translation is usually to be preferred, however
- **Round brackets:** if any word(s), part(s) of any word or punctuation are put in round brackets, this means such word(s), part(s) or punctuation are optional (i.e. may be omitted)
- **Deletion** of a word, phrase or sentence means ‘wrong’.
- **A dotted line** under a word, phrase or sentence means ‘doubtful’.

Afrika en het Westen: een hardnekkig misverstand

(a)

Africa and the West/the Western world: a persistent misunderstanding/misconception/misapprehension

(b)

Africa and the role of the West/the Western world: a persistent misunderstanding

(hardnekkig – tough/obstinate/stubborn/tenacious/pig-headed/bull-headed/pertinacious/dogged/stiff-necked [all of them tend to be used for people only!]/continuous/continual/constant/persistent)

Afrika heeft van oudsher de naam gehad een ‘duister’ continent te zijn.

(a)

Traditionally/Historically, Africa (has) had the reputation of being/(has) had a reputation/name for being/has been reputed to be/(has) had the name to be a ‘dark’ continent.

(b)

Africa traditionally had/has traditionally had the reputation of being a ‘dark’ continent.

(c)

Africa was traditionally called/referred to as/has traditionally been called/referred to as the 'Dark Continent'.

(d)

From/Since time(s) immemorial(,) Africa (has) had the reputation of being a 'dark' continent.

(e)

Africa used to have/formerly had the reputation of being a 'dark' continent.

(f)

Traditionally/Historically, Africa has been/was regarded/viewed as/considered (to be) a 'dark' continent. // Africa has traditionally been considered a 'dark' continent.

*(heeft ... gehad – ~~has been named/has always been called~~ [Both the past tense and the present perfect tense are acceptable here: the structure *heeft van oudsher ...*, without *gehad*, usually corresponds with a present perfect structure in English, but *heeft van oudsher ... gehad* often corresponds with a past tense structure because the addition of *gehad* suggests or may suggest that the action or situation described by the main verb does not stretch until the present! In this text, however, both options are defensible! Do not use a present tense, however!] // *van oudsher – throughout history/of old*; this latter phrase is a literary expression meaning 'long ago': *in days of old; ships of old; I know him of old* [rare]/~~since ancient times~~)// *duister – obscure/unknown*)*

Zo heeft het tot diep in de 19^e eeuw geduurd voordat het behoorlijk in kaart was gebracht

(a)

For example/For instance/For one, it was/took well/far into the 19th/nineteenth century before it had been/was properly mapped/mapped properly.

(b)

Not until far/well into the 19th/nineteenth century was it properly mapped/mapped properly, for example.

(c)

For example, it was not until far/well into the 19th/nineteenth century that it was properly mapped/mapped properly.

(d)

This is illustrated by the fact that it was not until well into the 19th century that Africa had been/was properly mapped.

(e)

For example, it took until deep into the 19th century/the late 19th century for the continent to be properly mapped.

(f)

It was not properly mapped before far/late in the 19th century.

(*Zo – Thus/So/Accordingly/Consequently/Therefore/This is why/In this way*; note that *zo* in initial position often means ‘for example’ rather than ‘therefore’ or ‘in this way’! // *heeft ... geduurd – has taken/lasted until the late nineteenth century* [Past tense is compulsory here!] // *geduurd – lasted*; note that *duren* is often translated with the verb *to be* in English where *duren* is accompanied by *voor(dat)* followed by an ‘impersonal *it*’ phrase; in such structures *take* can also be used: *het duurde lang voordat het gebeurde/begon te regenen! – it was/took a long time before it happened/started raining!* / *Het duurde niet lang voordat het gebeurde/het begon te regenen! – It was/took not long before it happened/started raining!*

If in the Dutch sentence *voordat* is not followed by an impersonal *het* construction but by a new subject-predicator structure, there are other translation options: *Het zal nog lang duren voor(dat) er vrede komt! – It will be/take a long time before there is peace!/Peace will be long in coming!* / *Het duurde tot aan de 18^e eeuw voordat de stenen herontdekt werden/Pas in de 18^e eeuw werden de stenen herontdekt – It was not until the 18th century that the stones were rediscovered/Not until the 18th century were the stones rediscovered.* / *Het duurde lang voordat het nieuws bekend was – It was/took a long time before the news became known/the news was long/took a long time to get about/in getting about.* / *Het duurde enige tijd voordat hij het gevonden had – It was/took some time before he had found it/He was some little time in finding it.* And also note: *Het heeft niet lang geduurd voordat zijn ... – They were not slow to ...*

Note that if the translator opts for a *take* structure, he can often move the relevant noun to initial position: *het duurt twee jaar voordat die heesters gaan bloeien – those shrubs take two years to flower/It takes/can take two years for those shrubs to flower* / *het duurt lang voordat de snijwond is genezen/geneest – the cut is taking a long time to heal* / *Het duurde drie uur voor ze haar fiets had gerepareerd/Het kostte haar drie uur om haar fiets te repareren/Ze had drie uur nodig om haar fiets te repareren – It took her three hours to mend her bike/it took three hours for her to mend her bike* / *Hoe lang duurt het voordat het licht van de zon de aarde bereikt? – How long does it take (for) the light of the sun to reach the earth?* / *Het kan wel tien jaar duren voordat een nieuw vliegtuig is ontwikkeld! – It can take 10 years for a new plane to be developed!* / *Sorrie dat het zo lang geduurd heeft voordat ik antwoordde – Sorry I have taken so long to reply/in replying.*

Where *duren* is not accompanied by a *voor(dat)* phrase, both *last* and *take* are often possible, *last* being a neutral indication of the span of time involved, and it can often be replaced by *continue* or *go on*. *Take*, on the other hand, often implies that a person (expressly mentioned or implied in the sentence) needed some time to complete or do something. So if any action described in the sentence can be seen as involving a ‘task’ to be performed, *take* is often a good alternative to *last*. For example, a journey, passage or trip can be seen as either an event (*last*) or a task (*take*), which explains that both verbs are possible: *de reis duurt twee uur (kost je twee uur) – the journey takes/lasts/lasts for two hours* [note that *last* can be followed by *for*!] / *de overtocht over de Atlantische Oceaan duurt vijf dagen (kost je vijf dagen) – the passage across the Atlantic takes/lasts/lasts for days*. So you say: *De Tweede Wereldoorlog duurde vijf jaar – The Second World War lasted (for) five years* [not: ~~took~~] / *zijn ziekte duurde lang – his illness lasted (for) a long time* [not: ~~took~~]; in these two sentence *take* cannot be used because war and illness cannot be considered tasks to be performed. But you do say: *How long will the job take / it took/will take me a long time to get there!* / *Het duurde vier uur voordat ik het essay had geschreven/het kostte me vier uur voordat ik het essay had geschreven – It took me four hours to write the essay.*

Note that unlike *take*, *last* can be used on its own in the sense of *doorgaan* or *aanhouden*, in which case it can be replaced by *continue* or *go on*: *Ik hoop dat dit weer aanhoudt! – I hope this weather will last/continue/go on!* / *Dit kan niet eeuwig duren! – This cannot last/continue/go on forever/indefinitely.*

Duren in the sense of *gehouden worden*, as in *duren van ... tot...* can be translated as *run (from ... to ...)*: *De tentoonstelling duurt nog tot oktober – The exhibition runs until October.*

Also note the following syntactic patterns: *it takes (me) ten minutes to smoke a cig – a cig lasts me ten minutes.* //

behoorlijk – also: accurately/adequately/decently; not: ~~substantially/sufficiently~~ / *in kaart ... gebracht* – ~~charted~~ [used mainly for sea areas!]/~~mapped out~~ [means 1. arrange (future); 2. present in detail])

Westerse kooplui kwamen meestal niet verder dan de kustgebieden; waagden zij zich wel iets meer landinwaarts, dan stierf het merendeel binnen de kortste keren aan malaria.

Western merchants/traders usually/normally/generally/mostly travelled/got no further/farther/did not travel/get (any) further/farther than the coastal areas; when/if they/the few did venture/did have the courage/were not afraid/did decide (to move/go/travel/head slightly/a little/a bit further/more inland/into the interior/upcountry, most of them/the majority (of them) died/would die of/from malaria in next to no time/in no time (at all)/very soon/quickly died of malaria.

(*kooplui* – dealers [1. trader who sells individual objects and who has specialized knowledge of these (e.g. an antique dealer or a used-care dealer; 2. someone who works illegally (e.g. a dealer in stolen goods/drugs)]/~~merchandisers~~ // *kwamen meestal niet verder dan de kustgebieden* – also: did not get/go beyond/past its/the coastal areas; ~~ended up at the coastal regions~~ // *waagden* – also: took the risk of moving/risked moving ...; not: ~~dared~~)

West-Afrika stond dan ook niet voor niets bekend als ‘Het graf van de blanke’.

(a)

It was not without reason/It was not for nothing, therefore, that West Africa/Western Africa/the West of Africa was known as ‘the white man’s grave’.

(b)

So/Therefore/Accordingly/Consequently, it was not for nothing that West Africa/Western Africa was known as ‘the white man’s grave’.

(c)

So/Therefore/Accordingly/Consequently, West Africa was not called ‘the white man’s grave’ for nothing.

(d)

Not surprisingly/No wonder, West Africa was dubbed “The white man’s grave”.

(e)

So the description of West Africa/Western Africa as ‘the white man’s grave’ was well-founded.

(f)

So West Africa was known, and not without reason, as “The white man’s grave”.

(g)

West Africa was known as ‘The white man’s grave’ for a (good) reason.

(h)

West Africa was justifiably known as the ‘white man’s grave’.

(*West-Afrika* – Both *West Africa* and *Western Africa* are used to refer to a definite geopolitical region comprising 16 countries and one overseas territory; *western Africa* or *the western part of Africa* – with lower case -w- – refers to a more vague area, in contradistinction with northern, southern and eastern Africa; do not place a hyphen between *West* and *Africa* or between *Western* and *Africa*. Incidentally, as a general rule, the ‘*ern*’ forms are in fact used for uncertain, vague areas and the forms without ‘*ern*’ for clear political divisions, but there are exceptions.)

De bloedstollende avonturen van de beroemde ontdekkingsreizigers in de tweede helft van de negentiende eeuw leverden weliswaar enige informatie op over de binnenlanden van Afrika, maar uiteindelijk werd het mysterie van het continent er alleen maar door vergroot.

(a)

Admittedly/(It is) true,/To be sure, the spine-chilling/bloodcurdling/hair-raising/terrifying/horrifying adventures of (the) famous/renowned explorers in the second/latter half/part of the 19th/nineteenth century yielded/provided/produced/supplied some information/provided us with some information about the interior/inland part/inlands/depths of Africa/Africa’s interior/inner Africa, but in the end/in the long run/at the end of the day, this information/it/these adventures/they/these details only/just added to/enhanced/increased/deepened/enlarged/only served to enhance the mystery of/surrounding the continent.

(b)

It is true that the spine-chilling adventures of (the) famous explorers in the second half of the 19th century yielded some information about the interior of Africa, but in the end, this information only added to the mystery of the continent.

(c)

Even though/Though/Although the spine-chilling adventures of (the) famous explorers in the second half of the 19th century yielded some information about the interior of Africa, but in the end, this information only added to the mystery of the continent.

(bloedstollende – stypie // ontdekkingsreizigers – discoverers/voyagers // leverden ... op – do not use a present perfect tense here! // weliswaar – it is not recommendable to place *admittedly* or the other options in mid position, i.e. before *yielded*! *Weliswaar* can be translated as follows: (i) by putting words like *admittedly*, *true*, *to be sure* in initial position, followed by a comma (ii) by using *It is true that ...* or (iii) by using a subclause introduced by *even though/although/though* (or sometimes *despite* or *in spite of*); it is not a good an idea to use emphatic *do* here: ~~did yield/provide/produce/supply some information~~; nor is it a good idea to use *indeed*! // de binnenlanden – ~~the inland~~ // uiteindelijk – at ~~last/ultimately/ eventually~~)// het mysterie van het continent – the continent's mystery)

Dat bonte gezelschap van avonturiers, zendelingen en wetenschappers heeft niet alleen de weg gebaad voor de koloniale overheersers, maar is ook – samen met laatstgenoemden – verantwoordelijk geweest voor de voorstelling die de gemiddelde Europeaan tot voor kort van Afrika had.

(a)

This colourful/motley/varied crew/group/company/community/crowd of adventurers, missionaries and scientists not only paved/prepared/smoothed the way/cleared the path for colonial oppressors/rules, but, (along/together) with the latter (group), were/was also responsible for the image/impression/perception/idea (that) the average European had of Africa/the image/impression/perception of Africa (that) the average European had/the image that persisted in the minds of the average European until recently.

(b)

Not only did this colourful crew of adventurers, missionaries and scientists pave the way for (the) colonial oppressors, but, along with the latter, they were also responsible for the image of Africa (that was) held by the average European until recently.

(c)

Not only did this highly mixed group of adventurers, missionaries and scientists pave the way for colonial rulers, they were also – together with the latter group – responsible for creating the average European's perception of Africa, which only changed fairly recently.

(d)

That colourful group of adventurers, missionaries and scientists not only cleared the way for colonial rulers, but was also responsible – together with the latter – for how Africa was perceived by the average European until recently.

(*bonte* – ~~raggle-taggle~~ [pejorative, implies unkemptness] // *gezelschap* – ~~party/mixture~~) // . . . heeft niet alleen . . . maar is ook verantwoordelijk geweest voor – . . . ~~did not only pave the way for ... but was also responsible for/paved not only the way for ... but was also responsible for~~ [Grammar note on *niet alleen ... maar ook & not only ... but also ...*: Three points are relevant here: 1. The structure *not only ... but also* is rather formal; in informal style it is often replaced by other structures, for example with *too* or *as well* (see Swan, § 383); 2. If the adverbial structure *not only* is placed in initial position (i.e. at the beginning of a clause), the 'inversion rule' (*There is inversion of subject and predicator (finite verb) in English, if an adverbial of negation or*

restriction opens a sentence or subclause for emphasis purposes, in formal style) must be applied, meaning that any auxiliary verb must precede the subject and that the auxiliary verb *do* must be used if there is no other auxiliary verb: *Not only was she enthralled but...* instead of ~~*Not only she was enthralled but...*~~. (Note, however, that if *not only* is part of the subject – in which case, it is not an adverbial structure, of course! – there is no inversion if it is put in initial position: *Not only Peter was invited but also all of his friends!*); 3. If *not only* is not put in initial position, it is often placed either immediately before the words or expressions they modify or in mid-position with the verb (i.e. before the main verb, except *to be*, and after the first auxiliary). So please bear in mind that the auxiliary *do* must not be used in that case! This is why ~~*... did not only pave the way for ... but was also responsible for*~~ is incorrect here.

In addition, however, it is best to use a ‘parallel’ *not only & but also* structure in formal writing, which means that if one verb modifies both the *not only* structure and the *but also* structure, this verb had better precede the *not only* structure: *She was enthralled not only by ... but also by ...* [parallel structure] – ~~*She was not only enthralled by ... but also by ...*~~ [not a parallel structure]; another example: *I knew not only where she was shopping but also the exact time of each transaction!* – ~~*I not only knew where she was shopping but also the exact time of each transaction.*~~

In the present sentence, however, there is not a single verb that modifies both the *not only* structure and the *but also* structure; instead, *niet alleen/not only* is linked only to *de weg banen/pave the way* and *but also* is linked to a different structure, i.e. *verantwoordelijk geweest voor/was responsible for*; this is why the verb *paved* must be placed after and not before *not only*.]

// *is* – the plural form *were* can be used because of the notional concord rule! // *zendelingen* – ~~*mercenaries*~~ // *wetenschappers* – ~~*academics/scholars*~~ // *laatstgenoemden* – ~~*the last mentioned*~~ // *is ... verantwoordelijk geweest* – ~~*were/was also to be blamed for/have/has also been responsible*~~ [the present perfect tense should not be used here!] // *tot voor kort* – *until recently* can also be placed after *European*; do not use ~~*up until recently*~~; // *van Afrika* – ~~*about Africa*~~)

Ook hier geldt: hoe eenzijdiger de bronnen, hoe hardnekkiger het misverstand.

(a)

Here, too, the saying/phrase/rule/following holds/holds true/is true/applies/holds good/prevails: the more one-sided/biased the sources (are), the more persistent the misunderstanding/misconception.

(b)

As is true of many things/The same applies here: the more one-sided sources are, the more persistent misconceptions become.

(c) [Free translation]

As always, biased sources of information create persistent misunderstandings.

(*eenzijdig* – ~~*more prejudiced/superannuated/unilateral*~~) // *hardnekkiger* – ~~*tougher*~~)

Hoeveel generaties zijn niet blijvend beïnvloed door de indrukken die werden opgedaan uit geromantiseerde missieverhalen en populaire stripalbums[,] waarin zwarten werden voorgesteld als een wat kinderlijk en bijgelovig volkje dat hard toe was aan de zegeningen van de westerse beschaving?

(a)

How many generations have not been/were not permanently influenced/affected by the impressions (they/that were) gained/received/formed/obtained/gathered [no perfect tense here] from romanticized missionary stories/mission stories and popular comics/comic books/comic albums/comic strips/cartoon books that/which/, which depicted/shown/painted/portrayed/presented/represented (the) blacks/(,) in which (the) blacks were depicted/shown/portrayed/presented/represented as somewhat childlike and superstitious people(, who were) in urgent/dire need of/very much/badly/desperately in need of the blessings of Western civilization?

(b)

How many generations have not been permanently influenced by the impressions gained from romanticized missionary tales and popular comics that depicted (the) blacks as somewhat childlike and superstitious people, who desperately needed to receive the blessings of Western civilization?

(c)

Think of all the generations that have been permanently influenced by the impressions they gained from romanticized missionary stories and popular comic books(,) in which the blacks were depicted as somewhat childlike and superstitious people, who were in urgent/dire need of the blessings of Western civilization?

(d)

After all, many generations have been influenced for life by impressions gained from romantic missionary tales and popular comic books, depicting blacks as somewhat childlike and superstitious people desperately in need of the blessings of Western civilisation.

(blijvend – constantly/continuously/continually // beïnvloed – affected [too negative] // indrukken – suggestions // stripalbums – cartoons/strips; note that the comma after stripalbums is optional because there are two possible interpretations; insertion of a comma suggests that the author believes that all comics depict blacks in that way; if this is not what he means, there should be no comma and the clause is then a restrictive relative clause!] // voorgesteld – possibly: made out to be; not: introduced // kinderlijk – childish; childish can have a neutral sense where it describes a child: childish laughter, a childish face (typical of a child) but where childish is used to describe an adult, it nearly always has negative connotations, comparable to Dutch kinderachtig; it then means ‘infantile’, ‘puerile’, ‘naive’; childlike, comparable to Dutch kinderlijk, has more positive connotations as it describes ‘positive’ qualities of a child, such as cheerfulness, innocence, trust, beauty: childlike trust/childlike innocence // een volkje – This can also be translated as follows: as a somewhat childlike and superstitious people (or race), but then you continue with (that was) rather than who were; this is because people is also used as a countable group noun, i.e. as a

translation of *volk(je)* rather than *mensen*. // *hard toe was aan* – ~~were longing for~~ // *westerse* – western // *de westerse beschaving* – ~~the Western civilization~~ [*the* must be left out before non-count nouns used generically!])

Het ontbreken van geschreven literatuur was aanvankelijk voor de blanken een bewijs te meer dat de Afrikaan onderontwikkeld was.

(a)

For the whites/white people, the absence/lack of written literature was at first/initially /originally/in the beginning yet one more proof/all the more proof/even more proof/evidence/an added proof/a further proof/another piece of evidence that the African was/Africans were underdeveloped/primitive/backward/of the African's underdevelopment.

(b)

At first/initially/originally/in the beginning, the absence of written literature was all the more proof for whites/white people that Africans were underdeveloped.

(c)

At first, the whites considered the absence of written literature (to be) yet one more proof that the African was underdeveloped.

(d)

At first, the whites regarded/interpreted the absence of written literature as yet one more proof that the African was underdeveloped.

(e)

The absence of any written literature initially testified to the fact that, in the white man's opinion, Africans were underdeveloped.

(*aanvankelijk* – ~~first/at the beginning~~ // *onderontwikkeld* – ~~fogy~~)

Ze stonden er niet bij stil dat de roman een genre is dat typerend is voor de burgerlijke geïndividualiseerde westerse samenleving en dus wezensvreemd is aan een traditionele collectivistische maatschappij.

(a)

It never occurred to them that the novel is/novels are a genre/art from (that is) typical/characteristic of (our) bourgeois/middle-class individualized Western society and as such/consequently/therefore/accordingly, wholly/essentially/fundamentally alien/foreign to a traditional collectivist(ic) society/community-oriented types of society.

(b)

They did not realize/realise/They never realized/realised/They did not stop to think that the novel is a genre (that is) typical of our bourgeois individualized Western society and as such wholly alien to a traditional collectivist society.

(c)

White people failed to realise that the novel was a genre that was typical of the bourgeois individualism of Western society, and therefore an unknown phenomenon in traditional collectivist societies.

(*stonden ... stil – didn't realise // typerend ... voor – typical-for/characteristic-for // collectivistische – collective/united*)

Ook hadden ze weinig waardering voor de eeuwenoude mondelinge overlevering, waarin een overvloed aan mythologische vertellingen, religieuze rituelen en liederen een beeld geeft van de rijkdom van de Afrikaanse cultuur.

(a)

Nor/Neither did they have/show much appreciation of/for the age-old/centuries-old/time-honoured/ancient/long-standing oral tradition, in which a wealth/abundance/profusion of mythological stories, religious rituals/rites/ceremonies and songs testifies/testify to/evokes/illustrates/represents/gives some idea of the richness/riches/splendour of African culture/the rich diversity of African culture.

(b)

They did not have/show much appreciation either of the age-old oral tradition, in which a wealth of mythological stories, religious rituals and songs testifies to the richness of African culture.

(c)

Also/In addition/Moreover/Further(more), they had/showed little appreciation/regard/respect for the age-old oral tradition, in which a wealth of mythological stories, religious rituals and songs testify to the richness of African culture.

(d)

They also had little appreciation for the long-standing oral tradition, which offers a wealth of mythological tales, religious rituals and songs, and gives an impression of the riches of African culture through abundant mythological tales, religious rituals and songs.

(e)

They also had little appreciation for the age-old oral tradition, in which a wealth of mythological stories, religious rituals and songs testifies to the richness of African culture.

(f)

Nor did they appreciate long-standing oral traditions, represented by mythological tales, religious rituals and songs demonstrating the wealth of African culture.

(*Ook ... voor* – ~~They also did not have much appreciation of/for/appreciate~~ [*also* is not normally used as a translation of *ook* in a negative sentence, except where it functions as a disjunct! *Too* and *as well* are not normally used (as a translation of *ook*) in affirmative sentences either. As the preceding sentence shows, *either* is used instead!] // *mondelinge – verbal* // *overvloed – surplus* // *de Afrikaanse cultuur – the African culture* [*the* must be left out before non-count nouns used generically!])

De gedwongen confrontatie met de westerse cultuur en de groei van de massamedia hebben in de jaren vijftig de voorwaarden geschapen voor de ontwikkeling van een schriftelijke literaire traditie in Afrika.

(a)

In the 1950s/Fifties/fifties(,) the forced confrontation/encounter with Western culture and the growth/expansion of the mass media created/shaped the conditions/laid the basis for the development/establishment of a written literary tradition in Africa.

(b)

The forced confrontation/encounter with Western culture and the growth/expansion of the mass media created the conditions in the 1950s for the development of a written literary tradition in Africa.

(c)

The Western culture's forced influence on Africa and the growth of mass media created the conditions for the development of written literary traditions in Africa in the 1950s

(*gedwongen – enforced* [means *afgedwongen*]/~~imposed~~ // *de westerse cultuur – the Western culture* [*the* must be left out before non-count nouns used generically!] // *westerse – western* // *hebben ... geschapen – have created* // *in de jaren vijftig – in the 1950's/in the nineteen fifties; in the 1950s* cannot be placed in end position here, because that would mean that the literary tradition developed only in the 1950s!// *voorwaarden – circumstances*)

Door gebruik te maken van de taal van de voormalige kolonisator bezit de Afrikaanse schrijver nu de mogelijkheid om het vertekende beeld dat men van zijn continent heeft, te corrigeren.

(a)

By using the former colonizer's/colonizers' language/the language of the former colonizer(s), the African writer/African writers can now/is/are now able/is/are now in a

position/can now take the opportunity to **correct/rectify/remedy/adjust the distorted image/ picture/view that others/ people/we have of his continent.**

(b)

By using the former colonizer's language, the African writer now has an opportunity/a chance to correct/of correcting the distorted image that others have of his continent.

(c)

By using the former colonizer's language, the African writer now has the possibility of correcting the distorted image that others have of his continent.

(d)

Adopting the language of their former colonisers, African writers successfully changed the public's biased views of their continent.

(bezit – possesses // bezit ... mogelijkheid – can now possess the possibility/opportunity // mogelijkheid – opportunity/chance/possibility/occasion: Both chance and opportunity can mean 'a time suitable for doing something you want to do' (I have an opportunity/a chance to visit the museum today); you can use chance but not opportunity for possibility alone (there is a chance/possibility that I will see him); occasion means 1. moment when something happens; 2. reason (he had no occasion to go); the usual syntactic patterns, relevant for this context, are as follows: have/get a chance to do something/of doing something / have an opportunity for something/to do something/of doing something / take the opportunity to do something / have the possibility of doing something; having said this, all these phrases do not always add anything relevant to simple options, such as may or can! // men – one [includes the speaker in English!])

Deze ontwikkeling heeft uiteindelijk geleid tot de toekenning van de Nobelprijs voor Literatuur 1986 aan de Nigeriaanse schrijver Wole Soyinka, de eerste Afrikaner in de geschiedenis die deze prijs heeft gewonnen.

(a)

It is this development/these developments/(train of) events that/which has ultimately/ eventually led to/resulted in the 1986 Nobel Prize for/in Literature being awarded to the Nigerian writer/author Wole Soyinka, the first African in history to win this prize/(ever) to have won this prize/who/that has won this prize.

(b)

This development/these developments/(train of) events has ultimately led to/resulted in the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature being awarded to the Nigerian writer/author Wole Soyinka, the first African in history to win this prize/(ever) to have won this prize.

(c)

It is this development that has ultimately led to/resulted in the award/awarding of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature to the Nigerian writer/author Wole Soyinka, the first African in history to win this prize.

(d)

This development has ultimately led to/resulted in the award/awarding of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature to the Nigerian writer/author Wole Soyinka, the first African in history to win this prize/(ever) to have won this prize.

(e)

This development eventually led to Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka being awarded with the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, the first African in history to win this prize.

(f)

This ultimately resulted in the Nobel Literature Prize 1986 being awarded to the Nigerian author Wole Soyinka, the first African winner of this prize.

*(heeft ... geleid ... toekenning – ~~has to/resulted in awarding ...~~ [note that from the perspective of someone writing in 2013, the perfect tense with *has* should not be used here; however, the text was written in 1986, and from the author's perspective, *the perfect tense* should be used!]
 // geleid – ~~lead~~) // toekenning – ~~allocation/attribution~~// prijs – ~~price~~ // heeft gewonnen – ~~who won~~)*

Chris P. Odijk, 15 November 2013