

**NXOPAXOPO WA DINOTHEXINI NA
KHONOTHEXINI EKA XITSONGA**

HI

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**DESITHEXINI YO ENGETELA EKA SWILAVEKO SWA
XIKAMBELO**

XA

DIGIRI YA MASITASI

EKA DYONDZO YA XITSONGA EHANSI KA

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes **denotation** and **connotation**. The **denotation** of a word is a direct specific, original or dictionary meaning of that particular word. In other words **denotation** is the conceptual meaning of a word. On the other hand **connotation** is an extended meaning of a word on top of its **denotation**. It is that part of the meaning of a word which goes beyond its pure linguistic meaning by including all of its associations that can be personal or communal. For that reason, **connotation** is said to be an implied or associated meaning of a word.

This mini-dissertation will analyze the following *Xitsonga Semantic Domain Kingship Words*: **mufana** (boy), **nhwanyana** (girl), **wanuna** (man), **wansati** (woman), **mukhalabye** (old man) and **mukhegula** (old woman) to demonstrate the similarities as well as the differences between **denotation** and **connotation**.

In conclusion, Leech (1975) maintains that in terms of its denotative meaning a word may be interpreted the same way across languages regardless of their cultural and historical periods. Yet, it may be difficult to arrive at a common interpretation when it comes to the connotative meaning of the same word within and across languages through different periods of times. This is due to the reason that **denotation** is static whereas **connotation** is open-ended as it changes through the change of time.