

NXOPAXOPO WA MIKONGOMELO YA MATSALWA YA NTLHANU YA VUTLHOKOVETSERI LAMA
HLAWURIWEKE EKA XITSONGA

HI

KHAYIZENI JAMES NGOBENI

9714480

YI NYIKETIWA HI KU LANDZA SWILAVEKO SWA DIGIRI YA

‘DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY’

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: DOK. BABANE M.T.

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ABSTRACT

The title of the thesis is **A Thematic Analysis of five selected Xitsonga Poetry Books**. This study is a critical analysis of some themes in Xitsonga poetry with special reference to **Xihungasi** (1973) by Maphalakasi GJ, **Swifaniso swa vutomi** (1978) by Marhanele MM, **Madaladala** (1982) by Nkondo CPN and Marivate CTD, **Vutomi byi hundzulerile** (1996) by Babane MT and Malungana SJ, and **Ndzhumba wa Afrika 2** (1999) by Malungana SJ.

The thesis provides some new insights into the analysis of poetry, while also devising a practical method for the analysis of themes and subject matter. Although the books under study are written in different times by different authors, but what strikes our minds is that they share some common themes which amongst others include death, love, marriage, protest, politics, praises, education, health, religion and life in general.

The authors also employ a number of poetic features and devices and expressions like simile, theme, style, hyperbole, protest poetry, enjambment, rhetorical questions, symbolism, metaphor and personification that determine amongst others, the form and imagery of the poetry. These devices are also used to add clarity to the meaning of poetry.