

MPALUXO WA MBANGU EKA MAHUNGUTSALWA YA TSEVU YA
XITSONGA

HI

TSAKANI MAVIS MATHEBULA

STUDENT NO: 11591933

XITSALWANA XA SWILAVEKO SWA XIKAMBELO XA

DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

EKA

DYONDZO YA XITSONGA

EHANSI KA SENTHARA YA M.E.R MATHIVHA YA TINDZIMI TA
AFRIKA,

VUTSHILA NI NDHAVUKO

EYUNIVHESITI YA VENDA

MULETERINKULU : DOK. BABANE, M. T.
MUPFUNETI : DOK. CHAUKE M.T.
LEMBE : 2014

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Library Item : 20153050



ABSTRACT

This study is entitled *Mpaluxo wa Mbangu eka Mahungutsalwa ya tsevu ya Xitsonga* (An analysis of milieu in the six Xitsonga novels). The main objective of this study is to critically analyse the milieu in the Xitsonga selected novels. Setting or milieu of the story refers to a place where the story takes place. The milieu described in this research is expanded to include also the passage of time which helps to direct the reader's attention to recognise setting elements in the novels. In novels, elements of milieu may include culture, historical period, geography, and hour. In literature, milieu is one of the critical components for assisting in the development of a plot, characters, theme and style. Furthermore, it is through the milieu of the story that the backdrop and mood of the story are initiated. There are different types of settings in the Xitsonga novels, which take various forms such as constructed world, dystopia, fantasy world, fictional city, fictional country and campaign setting. Two research techniques, namely, literary criticism and analytical criticism will be used to collect data for this study. The rationale of settings in the novels in this study is critically analysed in the following Xitsonga six novels by different authors: W.R. Chauke (1983), *Ndzi ta n'wi kuma* W.R. Chauke (1992) *Nsuku wa mina*, T.H. Khosa, (1996) *Mulunguntima*, B.K.M. Mtombeni, (1986) *Mibya ya nyekanyeka*, C.M. Lubisi, (1998) *I vutomi*, P.H. Nkuna, (1999)... *Ri hava Xilondza*. The reason for the choice of these novels is because they are written in different periods and uses different types of settings to develop their plots.

Key words: hungutsalwa (novel), mbangu (milieu), nkarhi (duration), kungu (plot), Matsalwa (literature), nkongomelo (theme), swimunhuhatwa (characters).