

**AN EVALUATION OF TSHIVENDA ORTHOGRAPHY WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD  
SPELLING RULES**

by

**SHUMANI LEONARD TSHIKOTA**

*Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of*

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

in

**TSHIVENDA**

in the

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**(School of Languages and Communication Studies)**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO**

**SUPERVISOR: PROF R.N. MADADZHE**

**UNIVEN LIBRARY**

**Library Item : 20161734**

**2016**



## ABSTRACT

This study sought to identify problems concerning Pan South African Language Board spelling rules in respect of Tshivenda orthography. A qualitative descriptive research method was chosen. The study population consisted of Pan South African Language Board spelling rules. The rules dealt with nine indigenous languages that were Tshivenda, isiZulu, Siswati, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and Sesotho sa Leboa. Each of the nine indigenous languages had between 12 and 56 rules. Altogether there were 255 rules which constituted the study population of this project. A small but sufficient sample of about twenty rules in Tshivenda orthography was selected.

Data were collected by means of unstructured interviews with forty-four purposely selected participants which include linguists as well as document analysis. Ethical considerations were ensured in order to protect participants from any harm or discomfort that might arise from being involved in an investigation. The researcher explained the aim and nature of the study to respondents, to get their informed consent before the interviews.

Several strategies to prevent defects, challenges and problems in Tshivenda orthography were recommended based on the results. The strategies focused on aspects which deal with spelling and orthography rules.

**Key concepts: orthography, indigenous languages, rules, writing systems.**