

A Comparative Study of Siswati Proverbs at Mjokwane and Manzolwandle High Schools: A Thematic Approach

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ABSTRACT The focus of this study is on Siswati proverbs that are compared and analysed according to their themes. Their explicit objectives on thematic exploration, origins, structural classification and functionality are evident. The specific themes that are randomly selected are marriage, parenthood, revenge, threat, unfaithfulness, deception, ingratitude, pride, fortune and friendship. Proverbs are regarded as a major vehicle for transmission of beliefs and values of society. They reflect the past, present and future of the society. It is further noted that they are the significant oral expressions of culture that entail ideals, experiences, philosophy and wisdom of the nation. They reflect various themes, connotative and denotative meanings and figures of speech. Their intention of promoting social harmony and morality in society are ensured in everyday speech in different situations. Their thematic exploration asserts language as a powerful tool that greatly influences on human lives. Both qualitative and quantitative methods complement each other at various situations in this research article.