

The Polemics on the Presentation of Time in Maile's *Boiphetetso* (Revenge)

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ABSTRACT Various literary critics maintain conflicting views regarding the presentation of time in Sesotho drama. Some of the critics maintain that time in Sesotho drama characterises itself as socially based and as a result it reflects the daily pursuits of the Basotho. Some of the critics argue that time in Sesotho drama merely emulates the Western European modern time. The paper intends to explicate the application of time in Sesotho drama with a view to reflect on the said arguments. The paper is based on Maile's *Boiphetetso* (Revenge), the Sesotho drama based on extra-marital relationship as a social problem. The results reflect that time in Sesotho drama should be analysed within its proper socio-cultural context. One basic observation levelled at this research work is that it is strongly recommended that the European standards should not be forced onto Sesotho drama as it has characteristics exclusive to itself. The fact that time in Sesotho drama lacks an element of precision does not compromise the quality and the integrity of Sesotho drama as it appears to be its inherent feature.