

**A Comparative Study of Naming Practices in Two Settlements:
Mpuluzi and Metfule in Mpumalanga Province –
An Onomastic Approach**

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ABSTRACT The objective of this study seeks to compare and survey how names are bestowed to individuals in Siswati culture. The analysis also focuses on the relationship between naming and certain aspects of life that influence naming. This includes the birth names, religion, family conditions and frictions between family members, commemorative names, natural phenomena and influence by political struggles. The study further investigates how days of the week, names of the months and marriage contributes towards naming. The personal names are analysed, specifically how they are grammatically formed by considering the number of syllables, semantic, morphological, double, contradictory markings and unmarked names. The personal names appear to be in polarity of short and long, positive and negative meanings, simple and compound, ideal and real. The comparative approach reflects name-giving process in two settlements: Mpuluzi and Metfule and further gives more explanation and interpretation of similarities and differences in naming practices.