

Naming and Humour: Decrying Extensions to Time-Celebrated Residences

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KEYWORDS Nicknames. Toponymy. Humour. Onomastics. Vatsonga. Xitsonga

ABSTRACT This paper was inspired by the humorous place naming of newly developed extensions of villages which is not restricted to any particular individual. The main aim of this research is to provide a comprehensive and critical evaluation of the meaning behind the names of some places among the Vatsonga communities. Emerging villages in the form of extensions of the existing villages are receiving a considerable amount of attention with regard to patterns of their naming. The presence of these villages is important for the study of toponymy. The study is qualitative in nature and data was collected using the interview technique. A focus group of five participants in each of the ten villages was used. Therefore, the study reports the results of the investigations into these place names among Vatsonga communities. The analysis shows that behind every place name, there is a meaning which is humorous and symbolic in nature. The study was conducted in order to make recommendations on guidelines for naming process of the newly developed extensions of villages.