

A Thematic Explication of *Lutsango* Songs

J.J. Thwala

*M.E.R Mathivha Centre for African Languages, Arts and Culture,
School of Human and Social Sciences, Department of Siswati, University of Venda,
Private Bag X 5050, Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province, South Africa
Telephone: 015-9628298, Cell: 0731875298, E-mail: Jozi.Thwala@univen.ac.za*

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ABSTRACT The objective of this paper is to categorize, combine and synthesize the themes of oral *lutsango* songs. Furthermore, it seeks to explicate their meanings, oral techniques and acting devices such as impersonation, imitation and cultural dance as well as to give the society entertainment, identity and solidarity. The principal observations are the various themes that reflect the whole life of Emaswati. *Lutsango* songs are songs that are sung by *lutsango*, that is, a group of Emaswati women who are brought together by music, dance, poetry and other related community activities. They are found in all Emaswati human settlements. A *lutsango* is a well-disciplined group that is characterized by respect, diligence and unity. The songs explore politics, health, culture, love, nature, education and history. Some of the songs overlap in thematic explorations. They reflect the comprehensive socio-cultural life of the nation. They emphasize on cultural continuity from one generation to another. These songs sustain the lives of people and are fundamental in indigenous knowledge systems.