

Naming Practices Among Vatsonga: The Case of Naming of 'Characters' in Some of Thomas Hasani Chauke's Songs

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ABSTRACT Thomas Hasani Chauke, affectionately known as Shinyori by his fans, has been at the forefront of Xitsonga Music for over 33 years. From his flagship, he has released 33 albums under his Shimatsatsa series. In some of his music, he narrates stories about issues that affect people in their everyday life and tries to spread positive messages. In those instances, he uses characters and gives them names. The aim of the paper is to investigate and pinpoint the naming of characters in Chauke's songs. Through the paper, one will realise that when Chauke names the characters in his music, he does not give names for the sake of naming, but instead, a careful consideration is made. The names have both, semantic and semiotic meanings attached to the characters depicted in the songs. Some songs, which have names of characters will be analysed showing their contextual and semiotic meanings.