

### **Abstract**

There are eleven official languages in South Africa. However, only two of these languages – English and Afrikaans – are dominant. It is often argued that this is because the other 9 official languages do not have enough terminology to be used in institutions of higher learning and in technical fields. I argue that the adaptation of literary texts helps in improving the status of African languages. For this purpose this research involves an analysis of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* which has been adapted into an English novel *Hill of Fools* by Peteni (1976) and later translated into isiXhosa as *Kwazidenge* (Peteni 1980).

The analysis consists of a comparison between extracts from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Kwazidenge* via *Hill of Fools* using Lambert and van Gorp's (1985) practical model for textual analysis. I argue that as much as *Romeo and Juliet* can be seen as a difficult text because of Shakespeare's English, Peteni was successful in adapting the play into isiXhosa.