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Setai, Shoeshoe

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A CASE STUDY OF A YOUNG DEAF MAN'S IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION IN A HEARING FAMILY

By Shoeshoe Setai

A Research Report

Submitted to the

Faculty of Humanities of the University of the Witwatersrand

in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of

Masters in Anthropology

Supervisors: Ms Caroline Taylor & Dr. Ruth Morgan

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this work and ideas contained therein are wholly mine and original

I declare that full referencing and acknowledgements has been done on ideas and thoughts that do not belong to me.

I am also aware of the University of the Witwatersrand's policy against plagiarism.

Shoeshoe Setai

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Abstract

This research report investigates the experience of identity construction of a young Deaf man born into a hearing family in the township of Bluegumbosch, QwaQwa in the Free State Province of South Africa. Through the science of ethnography and an intensive study of a single family unit, focus is given to personal narratives in understanding the impact a Deaf young man has on his hearing family members operating within wider socio-political frameworks.

This research report aims to bridge the gap in the paucity of family-oriented research in a Black township community, and with providing South African mainstream society with an understanding of Deaf children and the manner in which they contemporarily construct their identity, alongside the use and acknowledgement that SASL is a natural and complete language.

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List of Abbreviations

ASA- Association of Social Anthropologists

ASL- American Sign Language

ANC- African National Congress

BSL- British Sign Language

CAPS- Curriculum Applied Policy Statement

CMT- Curriculum Management Team

DEAFSA- Deaf Federation of South Africa

DBE- Department of Basic Education

JSL- Japanese Sign Language

LOLT- Language of Learning and Teaching

NAD- National Association of the Deaf

PGSS- Paget Gorman Signed Speech

SAPA- South African Police Academy

SAPS- South African Police Service

SASA- South African School Act

SASL- South African Sign Language

SGB- School Governing Body

SMG- School Management Group

UK- United Kingdom

USA- United States of America