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Investigating the depiction of masculinity in isiZulu literature of the apartheid and post-apartheid epoch

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to investigate the portrayal of masculinity in isiZulu literature of the apartheid and post-apartheid epoch. The novels under discussion are S, Nyembezi's *Inkinsela YaseMgungundlovu* (1960), I, S Kubheka's *Ulaka LwabeNguni* (1988), N.C Msimang's, *Umsebenzi Uyindlala* (2005) and E.D.M. Sibiya's *Ngiyolibala Ngifile* (2010). The study examines ways in which African epistemology is underpinned as an aesthetic of protest in African languages literature written in the apartheid and post-apartheid epoch. Furthermore, the study investigate how these African epistemologies are incorporated in the representation of masculinity. Using Marxism and Afrocentrism as a theoretical framework the study further zooms into socio-political and socio-economic aberrations highlighted by the African languages' novel writers in these different eras. The whole bulk of African languages has been considered a failed enterprise on the premise that it has failed to respond to the socio-political milieu of its emergence. This study therefore counter-argues through proposing that these critics used critical paradigms that are fundamentally mismatched for the types of narratives with which isiZulu literature and African languages literature in general is engaged.