

EDITORIAL

RACE, IDENTITY AND GLOBALISATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BEYOND

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This special issue of *Marang: Journal of Language and Literature* comprises some of the papers read at the First International Conference on Race, Identity and Globalisation in Southern Africa and Beyond held at the University of Botswana from 20 February to 23 February 2019. The Conference was jointly organised by the Department of French, University of Botswana; GRER-ICT Laboratory, University of Paris–Diderot; and CREA Laboratory, University of Paris–Nanterre. Thirty-six (36) papers were read in either English or French by participants from Botswana, China, France, New Caledonia, Reunion Island and South Africa.

The main Conference theme was divided into three sub-themes: “A Focus on Botswana”, “Intersectional and racial diversity” and “Decolonization”. As would be seen presently, all the papers in this volume are related to these sub-themes and to the many topics under each of them. Four (4) papers are exclusively on Botswana; 3 of them are related to minority languages and their marginalisation with respect to access (or the lack thereof) to education and public services. They also relate to minority groups’ attempts to assert their rights to their unique identities, among other things. The fourth paper also relates to culture and identity. The second set of two papers relate to South Africa and the racial tension that exists between especially the blacks and whites. One of the last set of two papers is related to the theme of colonialism and decolonisation. The geographic spread is from 17th century England to 18th century American independence struggle and more recently Rhodesia’s attempt to unilaterally assert their independence from the British crown. The second explores national identity and diversity in a multilingual southern Africa, traditionally defined.

The first set of papers is now more closely described. Herman Batibo’s first article, “The Devastating Process of Identity Loss in Botswana”, uses the Lamy-Pool Identity Loss Model to specify the factors leading to the identity loss of the marginalised minority groups of Botswana and explain the massive shift of the speakers of minority languages to the more dominant or prestigious ones. He identifies Botswana’s exclusive national language policy as the main factor that contributes to the loss and proposes an inclusive national language policy to alleviate the situation. The next paper by Anderson Chebanne, “The Internal Colonisation of the San Peoples of Botswana”, adopts a postcolonial and internal colonialism framework to critically examine the continuing socio-cultural and linguistic marginalisation of the San people in Botswana.

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He argues that the socio-political hegemony and marginalisation amount to a post-colonial state's internal recolonization of the San. He concludes that Botswana should adopt a decolonisation perspective in order to recognise the San's fundamental rights to their land, culture, and language. This would enable the San to preserve their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity. Jacob Sello's article, "Improving Minorities' Access to Public Services in Botswana: How can Public Service Interpreting Help?", coheres with the other papers in that it also focuses on minorities' lack of access to public services in Botswana. He argues that providing public services in only Setswana and English discriminates against people who have limited or no competency in the two mainstream languages and as such drastically reduces their access to public services and/or the quality of the services they receive. As this lack of access to services and the compromised quality thereof negatively affects the quality of life of the minorities, he proposes the use of Public Service Interpreting to ameliorate the problem and re-establish some form of linguistic social justice for Botswana's minority population. The last of the papers that have Botswana as its primary focus is Rosaleen Nhlekisana's "Batlokwa Culture Day: A Celebration of Cultural Identity and Pride". Although the paper presents a celebration of culture, it indirectly affirms the view that culture is important and that every ethnic group should have its own. Accordingly, guided by performance theory, the paper examines and outlines the events of the Batlokwa culture day held in 2012. It argues that by celebrating this day, the Batlokwa not only showcase their culture but equally promote it. She discusses the four important themes that emerged from the celebration: identity, community participation, integration and globalisation. And she applauds the use of technological devices to record and archive the cultural activities for future generations.

As already indicated, the next set of papers relate to South Africa. In "Geo-historical Re-appropriation in South Africa: Zulu Identity and the Struggle for Memorial Space", Gilles Teulié discusses the post-apartheid shift from a one-sided pre- and apartheid memorialisation and glorification of their events and heroes by whites and Afrikaners to a geo-historical re-appropriation that has promoted events concerning the black people of South Africa. In this more balanced representation, the author examines how the Zulu are taking possession of a memorial cultural space from which they had hitherto been absent. The author also shows that this re-appropriation is attended by complex debates about the construction of Zulu identity in the country. Patricia Crouan-Véron's paper is "Henry Rider Haggard and John Langalibalele Dube on the Native and Land Question in South Africa after the Passing of the Natives Land Act (1913)". The author focuses mainly on the content of the interview that took place between Dube and Haggard in 1914 to discuss Haggard's observations on Dube's position *vis-a-vis* this major piece of segregation legislation through which land was seized from the overwhelming majority of black people for the benefit of a tiny minority of white people and to the detriment of black people. She shows that the interview changed Haggard's views on colonialism and the injustices against

black people, clearly evident in his Zulu fictional trilogy. The discussion also reveals the reappropriation of the Zulu trilogy of Haggard's imperial adventure romances by Dube himself.

The third set also comprises two papers. Neil Graves in "The Rhetoric of Rebellious Republicanism: A History of the Illegal Overthrow of the British Crown" examines and discusses three unilateral declarations of independence differentiated in time (17th, 18th and 20th centuries) and space (Britain, the United States of America and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) respectively). He reports that only one, that of the USA, was successful, owing not only to the country's successful prosecution of a Civil War with Britain, but also to the justness of the American cause and acknowledged rhetorical excellence of the declaration document. The Rhodesian attempt which failed dismally was due to a weak proclamation which plagiarised the American document and provided little justification for the course of action embarked upon by the secessionists. The second and last article is also Herman Batibo's second paper, "Multilingualism in Southern Africa: Searching for National Identity in Diversity". Batibo discusses the language policies of southern African states and concludes that (southern) African countries should adopt the inclusive or hierarchical national policy, as either has proved to be ideal. Both show that all languages, majority or minority, can be successfully accommodated in each country. This, in turn, would ensure democracy, equality and the participation of all citizens in their countries' affairs.

Finally, the organisers of the Conference would like to thank the authors who contributed their papers to this issue. We are grateful to the authors' for diligently revising their papers to meet the stipulated deadlines and to the referees for their expert reviews. We are also indebted to members of the *Marang: Journal of Language and Literature* Editorial Board, in particular, Professor Arua Eke Arua, the editor, for their constant assistance in the preparation and publication of this volume.