

**THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE: A CASE OF BIBLICAL
INFLUENCE IN SOME SHONA NOVELS**

by

JACOB MAPARA

**submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of**

MASTER OF ARTS

in the subject

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: PROF MJ MAFELA

JOINT SUPERVISOR: DR DE MUTASA

NOVEMBER 2003

DECLARATION

Student Number: 0815-959-9

I declare that THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE: A CASE OF BIBLICAL INFLUENCE IN SOME SHONA NOVELS is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

.....
SIGNATURE
(Mr J Mapara)

.....
DATE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor Professor MJ Mafela and Dr DE Mutasa the joint-supervisor without whose assistance this project would not have seen the light of day. Special thanks also go to my young brother Nangisai who helped in typing this research and also for teaching me to type. I also thank my dear wife Beatrice for giving me encouragement. Her assistance, especially financial is very much appreciated. The services of Justin Chitakatira who gave me encouragement and read through this manuscript are also greatly appreciated.

SUMMARY AND KEY TERMS

SUMMARY

A lot has been written on the development of the Shona novel and the influence of orature on it. This research while acknowledging the importance of such an observation makes yet another one. This other view is that there is also another element that has had a significant impact on the development and growth of the Shona novel. This research has endeavoured to highlight that the Shona novel is a product of the society where it is found which is influenced by The Bible. The novelists Chakaipa, Chidzero, Makari, Musengezi, Tsodzo, Zvarevashe and Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* which has been translated into Shona as *Tsanga Yembeu* have used The Bible as the backbone of their novels. Although these novelists have all used The Bible they have not used it in the same way and for the same purpose. They have used The Bible to justify the themes embedded in their works. This research at the end shows that it is difficult to label a literary product as either a success or a failure.

TITLE OF DISSERTATION

THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE: A CASE OF BIBLICAL INFLUENCE IN SOME SHONA NOVELS.

KEY TERMS

Christian declarations, parables, passion, dualism, eschatological aspect, kerygmatic, liberating violence, sermon, *sitz em leben*, propaganda, form criticism, source criticism, redaction criticism, *vaticinium ex eventu*, extra-territorial

CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Declaration</u>	i
<u>Acknowledgements</u>	ii
<u>Summary and Key Terms</u>	iii
<u>Chapter One</u>	1
Introduction	1
1.0 Preamble	1
1.1 Aim of the Study	2
1.2 Justification of Research	3
1.3 Assumption	5
1.4 Literature Review	6
1.5 Methodology	8
1.6 The Shona Novel and Social Reality	9
1.7 The Shona Novel's History	11
1.8 The Bible and the Shona Novel	18
1.9 Scope of Research	21
1.10 Conclusion	22
<u>Chapter Two</u>	23
2.0 Introduction	23
2.1 The Writer and his Responsibility	23
2.2 Source Criticism	26
2.3 Form Criticism	30
2.3.1 The Miracle Story	33

2.3.2	The Pronouncement Story	36
2.3.3	Christian Sayings/ Declarations	40
2.3.4	The Parables	43
2.3.5	The Passion Narratives	46
2.3.6	Judas Iscariot	47
2.3.7	The Upbringing of Moses	48
2.3.8	Dualism	48
2.3.9	Wisdom Sayings	50
2.3.10	Apocalypticism	52
2.4	Redaction Criticism	53
2.5	Historical Criticism	58
2.6	Conclusion	59
	<u>Chapter Three</u>	61
3.0	Introduction	61
3.1	Against Sexual Immorality	63
3.2	Against Covetousness and lust	66
3.3	Preaching Against Drunkenness	71
3.4	Against Polygamy	73
3.5	Preaching Against Diviners	77
3.6	Against Forced Marriages	79
3.7	General Advice and Open Preaching	81
3.8	Conclusion	91
	<u>Chapter Four</u>	93
4.0	Introduction	93
4.1	The Pre-Independence Novel	96

4.2 The War of Liberation Novel	109
4.3 The Post-independence Novel	121
4.4 The Extra-territorial Novel: <i>Tsanga Yembeu</i> , The Bible and Liberation	126
4.5 Conclusion	132
<u>Chapter Five</u>	133
5.0 Introduction	133
5.1 Success or Failure	133
5.1.1 Success	134
5.1.1.1 Bernard Chidzero	135
5.1.1.2 Patrick Chakaipa	138
5.1.1.3 Thompson Kumbirai Tsodzo	143
5.1.1.4 Ignatius M. Zvarevashe	147
5.1.1.5 Charles Makari	148
5.1.1.6 Habakkuk Gonzo Musengezi	150
5.1.1.7 Ngugi wa Thiong'o	152
5.1.2 Failure	153
5.1.2.1 Bernard Chidzero	154
5.1.2.2 Patrick Chakaipa	156
5.1.2.3 Thompson Kumbirai Tsodzo	160
5.1.2.4 Ignatius M. Zvarevashe	161
5.1.2.5 Charles Makari	162
5.1.2.6 Habakkuk Gonzo Musengezi	164
5.1.2.7 Ngugi wa Thiong'o	164
5.2 Conclusion	167

<u>Chapter Six</u>	168
General Conclusion	168
Summary	168
<u>Bibliography</u>	179
Primary Sources	179
Secondary Sources	179

**THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE: A CASE OF
BIBLICAL INFLUENCE IN SOME SHONA
NOVELS**

by

JACOB MAPARA