

**THE DETECTIVE STORY IN VENDA:  
AN ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
BONO LA MBONI**

and

**ÑWANA WA MME ANGA**

by

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# DECLARATION

I declare that THE DETECTIVE STORY IN VENDA : AN ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BONA LA MBONI AND N'WANA WA MME ANGA is my work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

.....  
MR A E MAUNGEDZO

.....  
DATE

## DEDICATION

The dissertation is dedicated to my wife Livhuwani Violet, sons Ngudo, Maanda and Rihangwele Silas for support, love, interest and encouragement they have shown throughout the study.

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Above all, there is the Almighty God who gave me everything that I have : my life, wife, children, father and all the achievements.

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this research is to make a literary appreciation of the detective story in Tshivenda.

Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter which discusses the aim of study, the definition of detective story, methodology, detective novels in Tshivenda, background information regarding the authors, summaries regarding selected novels and the scope of research.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the plot structure of the two detective novels, and outlines the diegetic and metadiegetic stories. The elements of mystery and dramatic irony are also discussed.

Chapter 3 concentrates mainly on the setting of the two selected detective novels and its influence on the crimes committed, the lives of the characters and the tools that are used.

Chapter 4 deals with the depiction of the victims, suspects and detectives in the selected detective stories.

Chapter 5 concludes the study and summarises the main findings of the appraisal.

**Key terms:** Tshivenda detective fiction; S N Mahamba; N M Mphaphuli; metadiegetic story; diegetic story; mystery; dramatic irony; plot structure; setting; characterisation.

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## CHAPTER 1.

### 1.1. AIM OF RESEARCH

The aim of this research is to make a literary appreciation of the detective story in Tshivenda. The choice of this topic, with its relevance to African literary studies, was influenced by the limited number of detective stories in Tshivenda and the absence of research on the detective story in Tshivenda. This study therefore addresses this gap.

This research will be based on two detective novels, namely; *Bono ja mboni* by S N Mahamba and *Nwana wa mme anga* by N M Mphaphuli. These are the only novels in Tshivenda that bear the characteristics of a detective story. One can say that they are the first real detective stories in Tshivenda. It is therefore imperative to look at how the characteristics of a detective story are handled in these novels.

### 1.2 WHAT IS A DETECTIVE STORY?

The concept "detective story" is defined by several literary scholars in different ways. In the World Book Encyclopedia Volume D (1982:134) a detective story is defined as:

A work of fiction about a puzzling crime and a number of clues, and a detective solves the mystery. In most detective stories, the crime is murder and the clues lead to or away from the solution.

In detective stories, the author present the crime in the beginning of the narrative and then introduces the suspects and several clues. The detective then investigate the crime. In their investigation, they follow the clues that may eventually lead to the culprits being caught. When defining a detective story, in the Encyclopedia Britannica (1992:39) Volume 4, it is state that:

The detective story is a type of popular literature dealing with the step-by-step investigation and solution of a crime, usually murder.

The above definition can help one to distinguish detective stories from other stories because their principal action concerns the attempt by a specialist investigator to solve a crime and to bring the criminal to justice. It is also important to mention that detective stories consist of two stories: the diegetic story (investigation) and the metadiegetic story (the hidden story of the crime). Other genres deal with one single story.

In addition to this, Walker and Frazer (1990:5-6) say:

The plots of detective stories are obsessed with "plotting" in two senses : the narrative sequence that the detective constructs, and the plans and conspiracies that may have produced the crime.

The extract above is simply referring to the story of the investigation and the hidden story of the crime, also known as the diegetic story. The other story is the story which is narrated. Such a story is capable of great elaboration and explanation. When finished, it should be complete in itself. It is therefore important to bring together the two stories throughout the narrative. This is done by allowing a bit, here and there, of the hidden story to appear.

However, it should be borne in mind that a detective story is a story that unfolds the events from the beginning to the end.

In carrying out research in this study, different approaches will be used. These will include, among others, contextual, comparative, consultative and structuralist approaches. A brief note on each approach follows below.

### 1.3.1 Contextual approach

The word "contextual" is an adjective which comes from the noun "context", meaning facts or circumstances which surround something. Contextual here refers to the phrases which are connected with, and accompany a particular passage.

A contextual approach is important in that it enables us to understand the context of the author's own society and his or her position within it. Hawthorn (1985:131), in commenting on this approach, says:

Sociological and Marxist critics have placed great stress upon the need to understand the context of the author, own society and his or her position within it ....

In other words, contextualizing information in the literary work is needed as Hawthorn (1985) has indicated above. Therefore, the parts of a piece of writing, a speech which surrounds a word or passage and which influences or helps to explain its meaning, will be quoted in this research.

Furthermore, the following extract in the Encyclopedia Britannica Volume 25 (1992:695) can help to shed light on the significance of context:

Contextualism holds that the work of art should always be apprehended in its context or setting and that knowledge of it is

much richer if it is approached with this knowledge of contextualising.

Raselekoane (1987:29) says the following about the contextual method:

This is the device of suggesting character by the verbal context that surrounds the character. The way each character reacts to situations as outlined by the author tells the reader more about the character's personality.

The personalities of characters are revealed by their conversation with other characters as well as through their action. Therefore, context enables us to know more about the characters, setting and plot.

### **1.3.2 Comparative approach**

This is a method of approach in literature which was developed in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European and was subsequently applied to the study of other language families.

This approach is an investigative approach based on comparison. Therefore, the similarities and dissimilarities are investigated. This is done by simultaneous examination of two or more items. The main purpose of examining those items is to reveal likeness or unlikeness between or among them.

In literary works, this approach is appropriate because it entails a study of various works in relation to each other which have a striking common resemblance. Swanepoel (1982:2) comments as follows on the possibility and validity of the comparative method:

... genres can be compared within literature, within one single oeuvre, between two, three, or five writers within specific periods, within overriding thematic trends, with related literature.

This approach is the most important method of research pertinent to the literary appreciation of the two detective novels, as they bear a number of similarities.

Furthermore, Praver (1973:169) writes the following about the comparative approach.

The comparative approach is an effective method through which one can trace the movement and transformation of ideas, while at the same time widening the narrow experiences to which our existence in space and time condemn us by opening up for our emotional and intellectual enrichment, a vast storehouse of imaginative experience.

It can be noted from the above quote that this method can be used to unmask the similarities and dissimilarities with regard to imaginative experience between the two detective novels in this research.

Daiches (1981:251) sees the comparative method as:

... device for establishing degrees of excellence ..., which aims at giving many marks to each work and placing it in a scale cannot go very far without having brought together the works in question

with other works showing the same sort of thing, better or worse done, and by showing this, helping the reader to see how excellence is attained.

The different elements of fiction being researched will be compared in order to see the likeness and unlikeness among them with reference to the two selected detective stories. Then an indication will be made as to which author best handles the elements of detective story in his narrative.

### **1.3.3 Consultative approach**

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987:219) defines the word "consultative" as: "that which can give advice or make suggestion".

The term comes from the verb "consult" which means *to go to* (a book, a person with special knowledge) for information or professional advice. This method will be useful in obtaining and collecting information from authoritative persons who have theoretical and practical experience of crimes, murder, rape and kidnapping cases, such as social workers, magistrates and detectives.

The research will be on how crimes are investigated in relation to the two afore-mentioned detective novels. The information obtained from consultation with the above-mentioned personalities will be compared with the information in the two detective novels.

### **1.3.4 Structuralist approach**

The term structuralist comes from the work "structure" which the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987:1050) defines as:

An arrangement or organization, the way in which parts are formed into a whole or something formed of many parts, especially a building.

Therefore, structuralists are concerned with an arrangement or organization of something. This method of study places particular importance on the relationship and patterns of organization that lie below what seems to be the surface, especially in social science.

The World Book Encyclopedia L Volume 12 (1982:95) defines structuralism as:

A method of study that examines the relationship between things, rather than simple things themselves.

Following the above quote, literary works are made up of a number of elements such as theme, plot, conflict, setting, and characterisation. These elements are mutually interdependent in such a way that they cannot be separate. This approach will be of great significance in trying to see the structural patterns of literary works with a view to indicating the integration and relationship that exist among the elements of fiction.

#### 1.4 DETECTIVE NOVELS IN TSHIVENDA

There are very few detective novels in Tshivenda. Up to the present time, only two novels, namely, *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga* belong to this genre. If one examines the history of Vhavenda, a variety of factors have clearly contributed to the scarcity of detective novels. Apartheid played a major role. In the past, most police-men and detectives in particular were Whites, and Blacks only started to train as police detectives relatively recently. As a result, it was very difficult for Black authors to write detective novels because there were few Blacks with detective experience. They did not have enough experience in

as far as matters of crime were concerned. In other words, authors did not have access to information about crime.

Another reason for the low number of detective novels in Tshivenda was the fact that Venda was characterised by a high moral standard. The rate of crime among Vhavenda was low. Generally, only senior members (chiefs and traditional healers) were responsible for committing crime which warranted investigation.

Chiefs and traditional healers used to kill people to fulfill their traditional customs. As senior members of society, their crimes were never investigated. Ordinary people and the policemen as well were oppressed by those in higher authority. This oppression made it difficult for the policemen to investigate their seniors as they would suddenly lose their jobs if any kind of criminal activity was exposed. Hence, authors did not touch this field of creative writing. Crime matters are settled in courts by senior members of a tribe. As a result, information about crime was not accessible to authors. Self-censorship also played a dominant role. Venda rulers were historically dictators and their subjects had to show full reverence to them. Their authority knew no boundaries and has always been unquestionable. If one opposes or differs with the king, this would mean eviction from the society or worse still, a mysterious disappearance. No one would dare to enquire about the whereabouts of such a person. All these factors hindered the development of detective novels.

Detective novels are not truly indigenous to the Venda traditional way of life. In contrast, detective stories development rapidly in countries like England, France and America. Detective stories tend to be associated with democracy. Unless a society is democratic and its rulers accept democratic principles, the authors will always be faced with censorship.



With the introduction of the Western way of life, the alarming increase in the crime rate is providing authors of detective novels with more material, as well as better detective skills.

The World Book Encyclopedia L Volume 12 (1982:309) states:

Fiction is writing that an author creates from his imagination. He may include facts about real persons or real events, but he combines these facts with imaginary situations.

This means that fiction is not a real thing. It is a rendition of what the author thinks and sees in life and of what he encounters in his real-life situation. Everything that an author comes across in real-life can influence him or her to create fiction. The increase in the crime rate in a country may influence authors to write detective fiction.

Modern technology such as radio and television has also had a tremendous influence on the emergence of detective novels, because detective stories and films are shown. As a result, authors are starting to imitate and create their own detective stories. Therefore, more knowledge about crime has been acquired and many more books have been written which deal with the detection of crimes, especially by our White counter-parts. The Tshivenda fiction writers then emulated and started to write this type of novel. In 1974, Mphaphuli produced his book called *Nwana wa mme anga*, and in 1989, Mahamba wrote *Bono la mboni*.

There are novels in Tshivenda which have elements of a detective story but which do not fit properly into this genre. Novels like *U tshila ndi u vhona*, by R N Maqadzhe, *Maambiwa ndi one* by E S Madima and *Mtsheto ya wa* by A W Magau are examples of detective novels. However, they are more social novels than detective novels. Only *Bono la mboni* and

*Nwana wa mme anga* can be categorized as real detective novels.

## 1.5 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORS

### 1.5.1 S N Mahamba

Nnditsheni Sampson Mahamba was born on 25 February 1957 in Khubvi village in the Sibasa district today known as Greater Thohoyandou. He is the last born in Mahamba's family. He started schooling at Khubvi Primary School in 1967 when he was ten years old.

In 1973, he passed standard 6. From there, he proceeded with his secondary education at Tshivhase High, where he passed standard 8. He matriculated at Mukula High School in 1980.

In 1981 and 1982, he went for theological training at Butterworth Esderbrook in Transkei. He later became an energetic and dynamic young pastor and married Princess Rendani Ravhura of Makonde. They are blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter.

From 1988 until 1990, Nnditsheni Sampson Mahamba was appointed secretary for the Trans Orange Conference. From 1991 until today he has been Bishop in President of the Seventh Day Adventists. He is presently pastoring in the Gauteng Province, that is Johannesburg and its outlying areas. Mahamba has written three books, one short story and two novels.

Short story : Matungu : 1984

Novels : Dengelele la khanyo : 1989

Bono la mboni : 1989

Mahamba is a prominent Tshivenda writer who draws heavily on his pastoral background for the Christianity themes in his novels.

### 1.5.2 N M Mphaphuli

Nkhelebeni Milton Mphaphuli was born on 31 March 1945. He is the son of Joseph Cawood Mphaphuli and Sara Mususumeli of Mbilwi Mukhondweni. Tkhelebeni is their last born.

He attended junior primary school at Makwarela where after he went to do his senior primary education at Phaswana. He then completed his junior secondary education at Mphaphuli High. Thereafter, he completed his higher primary diploma at Vendaland Training Institute where he managed to complete his standard 10 while working as a teacher.

From 1966 until 1969, he taught at Hatshikonelo and from 1970 to 1979 he taught at Phaswana School. He completed his first novel *Nwana wa mme anga* while teaching at Phaswana School. In 1979, he became principal of Mbilwi Higher Primary School at Makanga.

Mphaphuli is a novelist as well as radio drama writer. Just recently, he completed his radio drama known as *"ZWE NDE NDI ITE"* and a novel *"U DO ZWI DIVHA NGANI?"*. Nkhelebeni Milton Mphaphuli is a promising Tshivenda writer.

## 1.6 SUMMARIES OF SELECTED NOVELS

### 1.6.1 Bono la mboni

Thizwilondi is the daughter of Elijah and Eveline Silidzhi. She is a spoilt child. Thizwilondi has a number of boyfriends, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. She is killed by her boyfriends because of her unfaithfulness. This happens at the music festival

which was held at Thohoyandou stadium where a great singer, Eddie William from America, came to perform.

Thizwilondi's body is found lying next to Tshiseluselu community hall. Thizwilondi's parents are deeply hurt by her death. An investigation about circumstances surrounding her death is conducted by the detectives in order to trace the culprits. They discover an empty box of matches with the abbreviation R T G written on it. Doctor Le Roux of Siloam Hospital conducts a postmortem. The result of the post-mortem reveals that her death was caused by a number of factors: she was first raped, strangled and then burnt. An empty box of matches helps the policemen to track down the culprits and they are eventually arrested. One the day of the trial, the witnesses (Elijah Silidzhi, Ntshengedzeni, Martha Mauda) give conflicting evidence which leads to the acquittal of the criminals. Richard, Thizwilondi's child, is very angry about his mother's death. He later decides to kill Fingo, whom he suspects of murdering his mother. Fingo then hunts down Richard in order to kill him and destroy the evidence. Unfortunately, instead of killing him, he accidentally kills Nndanduleni Ratshali who is Thizwilondi's uncle. Fingo is arrested for killing Nndanduleni Ratshali. He reveals that, together with Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa, he did in fact kill Thizwilondi. For killing Nndanduleni Ratshali, Fingo is sentenced to life imprisonment.

### 1.6.2 Nwana wa mme anga

Mafangambiti stays with his wife Mususumeli in Messina at Nancefield Location. They have another house at Shayandima Location which they use during holidays. They have two children who are twins, a boy Fhatuwani, and a girl, Julie. These children are spoilt. They get everything they want because their parents are wealthy. Despite this, they decide to leave their parents and fend for themselves. Julie and Fhatuwani love each other very much. Fhatuwani, together with his three friends, is arrested for breaking in and stealing money from the bank in Thohoyandou. Julie plans with Jack, a criminal, to rescue the four

prisoners. She pretends to love Jack, whereas her real motive is to rescue her twin brother Fhatuwani.

Julie and Jack kidnap the wife of a judge who stays in Thohoyandou (Muofhe Ndikandafhi) and Ndifelani's wife Mutshinyani. They are hidden in Julie's father's house at Shayandima. Julie and Jack threaten and intimidate the police by ordering them to release the four prisoners if they want Muofhe and Mutshinyani back. In the meantime, they warn the police that they are going to kill the two women if they do not release the four prisoners.

The police start to investigate the case seriously. Detective-Sergeant Tshimangadzo Mavhone finds the abbreviation F H S on Alphonso Fhambanani's necklace. He goes to Futelela High School to look for information about the abbreviation. He discovers that Alphonso Fhambanani is Fhatuwani, who is Mafangambiti's son.

The school security officer tells Frelimo all what he heard while they were drinking beer. Frelimo is a member of Faraday Mukhakhisi's criminal gang. Mukhakhisi and his gang take over the two hijacked women from Julie and Jack. They hold Julie, Jack, Muofhe, Mutshinyani, and Mafangambiti with his wife hostage. The victims are hidden at Mangwele Mountain. At that time, the police have come to know all about what is happening and follow them to the mountain. The police then kill Ganyani Makumbelo, Casanova and Faraday Mukhakhisi at the mountain. Frelimo, Julie, Jack and Muofhe Mutshinyani, Mafangambiti and his wife Mususumeli are captured by the police.

Julie apologises to her parents for all that she had done. Unfortunately, Fhatuwani, Julie and Jack are arrested and jailed. Ndikandafhi and Ndifelani rejoice when they are reunited with their wives.

## 1.7 SCOPE OF RESEARCH

Chapter one comprises the aim of the research, the theoretical background of study, the methods of approach, detective novels in Tshivenda, background information about the authors, and summaries of selected novels.

Chapter two deals with the plot structure of the two detective novels. Before the analysis of the essential parts of the plot of the selected novels (i.e the beginning, rising action, climax and denouement), the diegetic and metadiegetic stories will be discussed. The elements of mystery and dramatic irony will also receive attention in this chapter.

In chapter three, setting is the focus of our discussion. The main focus will be on the place and time when the events take place. The characters and their actions will be analysed in order to show how setting influences them.

The fourth chapter will focus on the way in which the authors portray characters, especially the victims, murders and detectives.

The final chapter will provide a general conclusion to the whole work which will entail findings, suggestions and recommendation.

## CHAPTER 2

### 2. PLOT STRUCTURE

#### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

Here, both the selected novels will be analysed, taking into account the way in which the events are arranged. The techniques of mystery and dramatic irony will receive attention in this regard. Before analysing plot structure in the two selected novels, a brief analysis of two types of detective stories i.e diegetic and metadiegetic stories, will be handled because they form an important part of the detective story.

#### 2.2 TYPES OF STORIES IN DETECTIVE NOVEL

Most detective novels have two stories. They contain the story of crime and the story of investigation. This is supported by Walker and Frazer (1990:5-6) who state:

Detective stories are obsessed with "plotting" in two senses : the narrative sequence that the detective constructs, and the plans and conspiracies that may have produced the crime.

This means that in a detective novel, there are two types of stories, namely : the story of investigation, also known as the "diegetic story" which is created by the detective and the story that concerns the crime, which is known as the "metadiegetic story". Hereunder follows a brief discussion of these types of stories.

##### 2.2.1 Metadiegetic story

The metadiegetic story is the story that concerns the crime. The author discloses what happened in the story. It could be a crime of murder, kidnapping or rape. This type of crime is set at the beginning of the detective story as a problem which needs to be investigated.

The Journal (1820 Foundation : 2), when commenting on the detective story, states that:

Writers of detective stories make up stories about crime, usually the crime of murder.

The above quotation suggests that a detective story has a story of crime. This story reveals how the crime happened and why it happened, the characters who committed the crime and how they are brought to justice. In other words, through this story we know all the plans of the culprits as well as their moves from the start until they are arrested.

Cawelti (1976:81) says:

The significance of these crimes is proportional to the elaborate parade of mystification and inquiry that the detective story must generate.

Cawelti expresses the idea that the crime that has been committed is part of a very detailed and complicated event of mystery. In other words, a crime that the author introduces at the beginning of a detective story is a mystery in itself. This problem needs a specialist sleuth to solve it.

A brief summary of the metadiegetic stories in both the selected detective novels follows below.

#### **2.2.1.1 Bono la mboni**

Thizwilondi is in love with Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa who are friends. Seeing that Thizwilondi has fallen in love with Eddie Williams, her boyfriends decide



to kill her after the music festival at Thohoyandou stadium. They take her via a lounge bar. On their way home, Thizwilondi's boyfriends force her out of the car.

It is dark and a thunderstorm is raging outside. In that thick darkness, Thizwilondi is raped, strangled and burnt to death. The naked corpse of Thizwilondi is put near Tshiseluselu Community Hall. Her clothes are laid on the low wall of the hall. The criminals leave the corpse there and disperse. As Thomas Everson's hand is burnt, his friends accompany him to Elim Hospital. On the following day, Thizwilondi's parents start to look for her high and low, but to no avail. No one in the family knows her whereabouts. Everyone at home is confused and worried by her disappearance. All the members of the family are stricken by great fear. Thizwilondi's corpse is discovered by the people on the following day. The police and the community at large are extremely shocked by the mysterious death of Thizwilondi. Her death creates a problem which needs to be solved. What causes this is that her murderers are not known.

From there, the culprits engaged in clandestine activities in an attempt to conceal the crime they have committed by bribing the witnesses and prosecutor Dick Marvin. This comprises the metadiegetic story, because it has to do with crime.

#### **2.2.1.2 Nwana wa mme anga**

Julie's twin brother is arrested for an attempted bank robbery. He is locked up in jail together with his friends. His arrest makes Julie extremely upset. Together with Jack, Julie struggles to have her twin brother released.

Jack and Julie kidnap Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani Ndifelani near Raluswielo Secondary School. The two women are hidden in one of the Mafangambiti's old house at Shayandima. Jack contacts the police by telephone, making an anonymous phone call,

which greatly shocks the police. They refuse to follow what they are being ordered to do.

The disappearance of Muofhe and Mutshinyani strikes fear in the hearts of their husbands, police and the country at large. Their kidnappers are now known. What is more, their husbands, people and the police do not know the whereabouts of Muofhe and Mutshinyani, which confuses everyone even more. The kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani forms the core of the crime that is committed in this detective story. It is a metadiegetic story because it concerns the crime of kidnapping. This is a problem that needs to be looked at very seriously by the police.

### 2.2.2 Diegetic Story

The diegetic story concerns the investigation of the crime by professional detectives. The presence of the detective is to try to solve a sophisticated or complicated problem. The problem is compounded by lack of information.

Mphahlele (1990:40), while commenting on the Whodunit about the diegetic story, says:

... the story of the investigation explains how the reader or the narrator comes to know about what happened.

This implies that diegetic story is the story of investigation of the crime which has been committed. Though complicated it may be, detectives try to solve it in order to bring the situation to normal. In their investigation, they gather evidence and analyse it. When investigating, they are supplied with a number of overlapping clues which help to guide them. The clues blaze way for future progress in their investigation until the final solution of the problem is achieved. The whole process of investigation ultimately reveals the evil-doers. This type of story starts

after the crime has been committed and ends when the mystery is solved. Porter (1982:29) says:

The “open” story of the investigation gradually unravels the “hidden” story of the crime.

This means that the detectives reveal the crime which is hidden through their investigation. The crime encountered at the beginning of a detective story serves as the beginning of detection. In other words, metadiegetic and diegetic stories are interdependent. They are closely-knit in such a way that they cannot be separated, as the metadiegetic story prompts the diegetic story.

Hereunder follows a brief summary of the diegetic stories in the two selected detective stories.

#### **2.2.2.1 Bono la mboni**

The diegetic story in *Bono la mboni* begins when detective Muzila and Masutha investigate the death of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. The detectives discover a burnt corpse, which is unidentifiable, and a box with the abbreviations R T G written on it. The corpse is later identified because of the clothes which were found lying next to the hall. The detectives visit parents and close friends of the deceased in an attempt to identify her killers and find a motive for her death. Dr Le Roux of Siloam Hospital conducts a postmortem. The results of the postmortem encourage the detectives to track down the culprits.

At the funeral service of Thizwilondi, police suspect Roberto Fingo and arrest him. The detectives continue to look for more culprits. They arrest Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa with the help of the R T G abbreviation found on the match box that was found at

the scene of the crime.

The suspected culprits are kept in jail for three months without trial. During the trial, the three culprits are acquitted because they are self-employed. On the day of the second trial, Ntshengedzeni, Eveline and Martha Mauda present conflicting evidence. The suspects are found guilty but the sentence is suspended for 10 years.

Richard hunts Roberto Fingo high and low in order to avenge his mother's death. Fingo in turn hunts Richard in order to kill him, but accidentally kills Nndanduleni Ratshali instead. He is arrested after Richard reports the case to the police. During the trial, Fingo reveals all what happened before. Eventually, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are also arrested. Both of them are charged and found guilty of killing Thizwilondi. This is a diegetic story because it concerns the investigation of the culprits, their trials and jail terms after being convicted for crime.

#### **2.2.2.2 Twana wa mme anga**

Detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu detect a mysterious kidnapping of Mutshinyani and Muofhe, who are kidnapped while they are on their way to see a specialist doctor at Makwarela Location. They are kidnapped by Carole and Jack and are hidden in Mafangambiti's house at Shayandima. Detective Tshimangadzo informs Mutshinyani's husband Ndifelani at Thohoyandou Hotel about the disappearance of his wife. They go together to the police station. Ndikandafhi receives telephone calls from a person who does not want to identify himself. The calls instruct him to release the four prisoners. The police refuse to carry out the instruction and begin to track down the criminals.

At Vondwe prison, detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone discovers the F H S abbreviation on Alphonso Fhambanani's necklace. They go to Futelela High School to investigate. They

discover that Alphonso Fhambanani is the son of Mafangambiti of Messina. Mukhakhisi and his gang also get involved. The presence of this gang serves as an obstacle for the police to arrest the culprits. The police and Mukhakhisi's gang meet at Mafangambiti's house in Messina. Detective Tshihadu is killed with a knife by Frelimo. Mukhakhisi takes Mafangambiti and his wife to their old house at Shayandima. The police receive another telephone call which orders them to release the four prisoners. Mukhakhisi's gang captures the two kidnapped women and their kidnapers and hide them in the cave at Mangwele mountain.

The police confront Mukhakhisi's gang at Mangwele mountain. A fierce battle ensues between the police and Mukhakhisi's gang. Mukhakhisi and some of his colleagues are killed. Others are captured and imprisoned.

The detectives in *Bono la mboni* investigate the death of a young girl, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives investigate the disappearance of the two kidnapped women. In conducting their investigation, the close friends of the deceased and her parents are contacted in *Bono la mboni*. The prisoners are visited at Vondwe Prison in *Nwana wa mme anga*. In *Bona la mboni*, the detectives track down the criminals with the help of the R T G abbreviation whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives detected the criminals with the help of the F H S abbreviation.

The detectives tried unsuccessfully to convict the criminals, but a minor character succeeded in tracking down the criminals and convicting them in *Bona la mboni*. All in all, the criminals are identified in *Bono la mboni* whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga* they never identified themselves until they are found.

## 2.3

### The Concept plot

A plot is the way in which events are arranged. The events follow one another in a sequential fashion. A story refers to a sequential arrangement of events in a novel. The difference between a story and plot lies in the fact that a story is what an author narrates about and it has a beginning and an end. In a plot, an author can start arranging his/her events from the middle or from the end of the story. This depends on the aspect he or she wants to emphasise to the readers.

The concept of plot is defined by Abrams (1993:159) as follows:

The plot in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions as they are rendered and ordered towards achieving particular emotional and artistic effects.

This means that events and actions are logically arranged from the beginning of a narrative to the end. The planned series of connected events make up the story line or create a coherent structure of the story. An author orders events in a narrative in order to achieve the goal or purpose in mind. Burnet, as cited by Mafela (1993:65), maintains that:

A plot is what you do with that story. It is your plan or arranging the events, not necessarily in a time sequence, but in an artistic sequence .. In a selective sequence.

The artistic sequence incorporates cause and effect. An author arranges his or her events in the way he likes and not in a chronological order. He or she selects the most important events that he or she wants to bring to the attention of the readers and starts narrating about them. In this research, the emphasis will be on the plot structure of a detective story.

Detective fiction has duality. It tells two stories, namely, the story of the crime and the story of the investigation. In the story of the crime, the author discloses what happened, whereas the story of investigation presents how the reader has come to know about what happened. Therefore, in a detective story, we learn about the crime, why it actually happens, the person who commits a crime and how he or she is punished. This involves detectives investigating the crime, the procedures that they follow in their investigation and how they identify and finally arrest the perpetrators.

A plot of a detective story differs from that of an ordinary story in that it is full of mysteries, suspense and surprise. These are elements of fiction that are seldom found in a ordinary story.

Hereunder follows an evaluation of the essential elements of plot structure of a detective story, namely: exposition, rising of action, climax and ending in both selected novels.

### **2.3.1 The exposition**

The exposition involves the provision of background information and introduction of setting, important characters and problems of the main character. Freytag, as cited by Swanepoel (1987:8), says:

The characters and the circumstances are introduced.  
Information necessary for the building up of tension is  
communicated.

The suggests that, the beginning of a detective narrative informs readers about the main characters of the story and where the story is taking place. The problem of the main characters is also disclosed in this phase, and in this case crime. Furthermore, Walker and Frazer

(1990:10) maintain that:

The crime itself is presented, from the very beginning, in terms of discourse.

The above extract means that beginning of a detective novel reflects a crime to solve. It could be either murder, robbery, kidnapping, or a moral offence. In this phase of a detective story, the events are stable or static. The concept "static" is defined in the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987:1032) as:

Something, not moving, changing, or developing especially in a way that is undesirable.

This means that the events in the exposition of a detective story are stable. The crime is set as a problem to solve. This crime is static and it does not move or develop. It is a problem that needs a scientific investigator(s) to solve it. The crime that is presented in the exposition, creates suspense and surprise.

In the beginning of *Bono la Mboni*, the author informs readers about the background information of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. Readers know that Thizwilondi leads a corrupt life. The main characters are also introduced, namely: Thizwilondi, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. The three men have discovered that all of them are Thizwilondi's boyfriends and that Thizwilondi has also fallen in love with Eddie Williams during the music festival at Thohoyandou Stadium. They decide to bring Thizwilondi's life to an end. Indeed, they kill her mysteriously.



Thizwilondi's death creates a lot of problems for her family and the community at large because she has been killed mysteriously. No one knows her killers. Her death in this exposition is static as the question of her killers would only be answered after an investigation. Thizwilondi's death contributes to the progression of the plot of this detective novel.

In the beginning of *Nwana wa mme anga*, the background information of the main characters and their problems is given. Setting is also communicated. The events start in the Thohoyandou area.

Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped on the road. Julie and Mack Maora are the main characters in this detective story. Julie's twin brother Fhatuwani is arrested with his three friends after an attempted bank robbery.

Julie invites Jack Maora, who is a criminal, to assist her in her plan. They arrange to kidnap the wife of an influential judge in Thohoyandou, Muofhe Ndikandafhi, in order to have Fhatuwani released from jail.

Muofhe is in fact kidnapped. Mutshinyani, a wife of Ndifelani, is also accidentally kidnapped with Muofhe. The kidnapping creates problems for their husbands and the community at large. Nobody knows their whereabouts, hence it is a mysterious kidnapping. This kidnapping stands as a problem that needs a detective to investigate it.

The events in *Bono la mboni* begin in Thohoyandou Stadium during the music festival whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, events begin in the Greater Thohoyandou. The main characters, Thizwilondi, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are introduced

in the exposition of *Bono la mboni*. In *Nwana wa mme anga* Julie, Jack Maora and Fhatuwani, who is later jailed, are introduced in the exposition.

The problem of the main characters is also disclosed in the exposition of *Bono la mboni*. Thizwilondi's boyfriends complain about her unfaithfulness. She has just fallen in love with Eddie Williams. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the main character Julie is complaining about her twin brother who is in jail and she wants to release him from jail.

In order to resolve the problem in *Bono la mboni*, the three friends (Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa) decide to end Thizwilondi's life, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie and Jack plan to kidnap the wife of the judge who stays in Thohoyandou in order to have her twin brother Fhatuwani released from jail.

Thizwilondi is killed by her boyfriends in *Bono la mboni* because of her unfaithfulness whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani are kidnapped by Julie and Jack Maora in order to have Fhatuwani released from jail. A serious look at the beginning of these two detective stories may lead one to agree that the incidents of Thizwilondi's murder and that of the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani help to generate detection.

It is noteworthy to observe that there is a remarkable distinction between the exposition of a detective story and that of an ordinary story. In the exposition of a detective story, the author introduces a problem to be solved. This may be a murder to solve, robbery or moral offence which needs police detection. Suspense and surprise are generated by the crime. The exposition of an ordinary story does not start with a crime that needs to be solved.

The event of the death of Thizwilondi is part of the rising action. The author starts his plot by this incident because it helps to generate the plot of this detective story. Mphaphuli delays the incident of the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Instead of presenting it in Chapter 1, he does that in Chapter 2. The reason for the delay in that in Chapter 2, he explains the background information of the main character.

### 2.3.2 The rising action

Swanepoel (1992:8) says the following about the rising action:

Each incident, each scene contributes to the enlargement of the problem to the coming of an unavoidable moment of decision.

This means that, in the rising of a detective story, the incidents are interlinked in that each incident brings another incident and the other incident brings another until the story comes to a climax.

The World Book Encyclopedia (1982:269) states that the rising action involves: "discoveries and decisions that change the course of action".

The above quote is in line with the rising action of a detective story because in the rising action police are seen struggling to track down the perpetrators. In their investigation, the police discover additional crimes and they follow certain procedures and clues. This phase in detective story is active since readers come across the detectives in their search for the culprits. On the other hand the culprits try to hide themselves. This makes it difficult for the detective to trace the criminals. The tactics of the criminals complicate the rising action. As the actions become more tense, a climax is reached. Thus the rising action of a detective story becomes active.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987:9) defines the word active as “doing things or able to take action”. This means that the rising action of a detective story consists of gathering evidence relating to the crime. The crime that has been committed at the beginning of the story is now detected. It is through the activities of the detectives that the rising action becomes active. In addition to the above definition, Mphahlele (1990:4) says:

The middle part of the narrative consists of collecting  
the evidence relating to the crime and it is usually active.

Mphahlele want to indicate that the rising action of a detective story consists of gathering of evidence relating to the crime which is committed at the beginning of a detective story. The work of investigation is done by the detectives with the help of the people that have evidence of the crime. Here, the author describes moves made by the investigator as he or she follows clues like a hunter stalking his prey. This causes readers to anticipate the murderers identity and their motive for killing their victim(s).

In *Bono la mboni*, the rising action starts to take shape when detectives come to the spot where Thizwilondi has been killed. They discover a burnt corpse which is unidentifiable and a box of matches with the initials R T G written on it. The box of matches helps the police to track down the perpetrators. The following strategies are used by the detective while they are tracking down the culprits:

Detectives Nedzamba suggests paying a visit to the close friends of the deceased. Thizwilondi's friend could be known through contact with her parents. The detectives do in fact visit Thizwilondi's parents. They discover that Thizwilondi used to go out with a colored man, Roberto Fingo. From there, the police suspect Fingo at the funeral service of Thizwilondi and arrest him. Before this

accident, the corpse of the deceased is inspected by Doctor Le Roux of Siloam Hospital. The box of matches with R T G written on it and the results of the postmortem and the fire helped the detective in their investigation.

Mahamba (1989:15-16) has this to say:

Mapholisa vhone vha na wavho-vho mushumo. Vhone vha khou todisesa uri vha wane tsho <sup>^</sup>laho muthu. Tshine vha tshi takalela ndi gwangwa la mulilo le vha u wana wo wela nthha ha guvha la holo ngauri vha divha uri ngalo vha tea u do wana minwe ya vhavhulahi. Tshinwe tshine tshi si vhe tshithu zwatsho, ndi maledere R T G o nwalwaho kha bogisi ili la mulilo.

*(The police have their duty as well. They are busy investigating in order to get the culprits. They are happy to find an empty box of matches on the low wall of the hall. They know that with the help of that box, they would get the fingerprints of the culprits. Another important thing is the abbreviations R T G written on the box).*

Detectives trace the criminals with the help of the R T G abbreviations which are written on the box of matches. From here, the action of investigation develops and becomes more complicated.

At the funeral, police suspect Roberto Fingo and they finally arrest him. The detectives continue to look for more culprits. They arrest Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa with the

help of R T G abbreviations. The burnt hand of Everson which is bandaged makes the police suspicious and arrest him. The culprits are tried in court and are given free bail.

After the release of the three suspects, they do not sit and wait for the final trial. They work very hard to win the case. The suspects use a lot of money. They also bribe prosecutor Dirk Marvin by giving him R20 000 to twist the case during the trial.

Apart from this, Fingo's car is decorated and glasses are tinted so that they could not be seen by people when they go to visit Silidzhi's family. John Makumbe is also bribed because he witnessed the plan for murdering Thizwilondi Silidzhi. The suspects bribe the people with the intention that they might give conflicting evidence during the trial. The incident of bribery complicates the rising action of this detective novel.

On the other hand, Gilbert Tshirwa falls in love with Ntshengedzeni (Thizwilondi's sister) in order to win her heart and that of her mother so that they could defend him during the trial. Gilbert Tshirwa, in Mahamba (1989:70), while speaking to Ntshengedzeni, says:

Zwino Ntshenge, danu mmbudza-vho hafha arali nga ngoho ni tshi  
mpfuna ni ambe ngoho yanu. Arali mafhungo ane nda vha khao  
a fhela ndo pfi ndi na mulandu nda valelwa, ni do nndindela?

*(Now tell me Ntshenge, if you truly love me, tell me the truth. If  
I am found guilty in this murder case and locked up in jail, are  
you going to wait for me?)*

From the dialogue between Gilbert and Ntshengedzeni, one can deduce that Gilbert

is pretending to be in love with Ntshengedzeni. However, Gilbert did not genuinely love Ntshengedzeni. Since Gilbert is accepted by Eveline as her son-in-law, Eveline and her daughter work out plans that would lead to Gilbert's acquittal. All these tactics by the criminals complicate the whole action. On the day of the trial, Ntshengedzeni, Eveline and Martha Mauda give conflicting evidence. The culprits are not found guilty of murdering Thizwilondi. The acquittal of the criminals indicate the failure of the police in their detection of criminals.

The acquittal of the three suspects hurt Richard, Thizwilondi's son, very deeply. He tracks down the criminals by himself. He uses the strategy of intimidation, which is apparent when he meets Fingo at Thohoyandou Hotel in the toilet. Richard intimidates Fingo as if he wants to kill him. In Mahamba (1989:92) Richard says this to Fingo:

"Namusi ni a fa, goya ndi inwi!" Richard o ralo o ima tsini na Fingo, o mu sumba thumbu nga tshila tshithu tshe a vha o fara.

*(You will die today, you wild cat!" Richard said while standing next to Fingo, pointing at his stomach with the object he was holding).*

From the above extract one can deduce that Richard wants to kill Fingo to avenge his mother's death. Unfortunately, he fails to kill him because of the lengthy conversation. In turn, Fingo hunts down Richard in order to kill him. Richard is not aware of Fingo's intention. Fingo kills Richard's uncle Nndanduleni Ratshali accidentally instead of Richard. The action becomes more complicated, and this moves the events towards the climax.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the rising action begins immediately after the kidnapping of Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani Ndifelani. As a result conflict begins to develop between Carole and the police. Carole and Jack order the police to release the four prisoners who are at Vondwe prison. The police refuse to carry out these instructions and start with their investigation.

The police receive several telephone calls instructing them to release the four prisoners. This strategy is used by the criminals to confuse the police in their detection. Moreover, the person, who is phoning does not identify himself. This also serves as a tactic used by the criminals to confuse the detectives so that they could not identify them. Despite the calls ordering them to release the prisoners, the police do not give up in tracking down the criminals. In his conversation with Ndifelani, Ndikandafhi says:

N<sub>g</sub>e sa muhatuli wa fhan<sub>o</sub> doroboni ya T<sub>h</sub>ohoyand<sub>o</sub>u khathihi na Vho-Tshibuleni vhane vha vha muhulwane wa afha mapholisani, a ri koni uri vhukati hashu ra mbo di bvisa la uri hu itwe zwifhio kha khombo yo bvelelaho. Ra ralo ri do vha ro dzhia mulayo ra u fara nga zwanda zwashu. Ndi tshi ralo a si uri ndi na manwe maano. Hai, ndi ralo uri ri thome milingo yashu ri tshi divha zwine ra kona na zwane ra si kone (Mphaphuli, 1974:16-17).

*(I, as a judge of Thohoyandou and the station commander Tshibuleni cannot say what must be done with regard to this problem. If we do that, we will be taking the law into our hands. But, this does not mean that I have any idea. No, I am saying*



*this so that we can start our investigations knowing what we can do and what we cannot do).*

Indeed, the police start with their investigation in order to apprehend the culprits.

The following steps are taken by the police:

- (i) Detective sergeant Tshibangadzo Mavhone goes to take Ndifelani from the hotel to the police station where after he is informed about the kidnapping.
- (ii) Detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone also goes to Vondwe prison to see the four prisoners. He discovers F H S abbreviations on Alphonso Fhambanani's necklace.

The abbreviation gives the detectives a useful clue. The police go to Futelela High School to find out if Alphonso has ever been a pupil there. They discover that Alphonso Fhambanani is Fhatuwani, the son of Mafangambiti of Messina. While the police are busy with their investigation, Mukhakhisi and his gang intervene.

The intervention of Mukhakhisi and his gang could be identified as an obstacle for the police because the incident leads to the complication of the problem. The rising action becomes more complicated when detective Tshihadu is killed by Frelimo, one of Mukhakhisi's gang, in Messina. Faraday Mukhakhisi and his gang take Mafangambiti and his wife to their old house at Shayandima.

They capture the two kidnapped women and their kidnapers. The type of transport used

by the criminal needs to be taken into account. Jack and Carole are in a Mazda car with a canopy without windows when they kidnap the two women. When going to phone the police, Jack uses a Fiat car. The changing of the means transport by the criminals is a tactic to avoid being noticed by the police and the people at large. This incident also complicates the rising action.

The situations becomes more tense. Mukhakhisi hide the two women and their kidnapers at Mangwele mountain. While all this is happening, the detectives are after them. The arrival of the police pushes the situation towards a climax.

In *Bona la mboni*, the detectives investigate a murder case of Thizwilondi Silidzhi who as killed by her boyfriends. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives investigate a kidnapping case. Julie and Jack kidnap the two women, Muofhe and Mutshinyani. They want to have Julie's twin brother, Fhatuwani, released from jail.

The detective in *Bona la mboni* detects criminals with the help of the abbreviations R T G. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, after the two women are kidnapped, detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone finds a necklace with F H S engraved on it, which helps them to trace the criminals. In both cases, abbreviations are used to solve the problem.

Fingo's car is used by the criminals in *Bono la mboni*. When the situation becomes more tense, the car is decorated and glasses are tinted to avoid being noticed by the police. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, several types of cars are used by the criminals to avoid being noticed by the police. A Mazda and Fiat cars are used.

In *Bona la mboni*, the detectives fail in their detection of the criminals. Richard steps in to

investigate the case by himself. Though one of the detectives, Tshihadu, is killed during the investigation in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives never give up.

One group of criminals (ie Fingo, Everson and Gilbert) operate in *Bona la mboni* whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, two gangs of criminals operate ie Carole and Jack on the one hand and Mukhakhisi's gang on the other hand.

In this respect, Mahamba fails to handle the rising action in a successful way because the criminals were tracked down but there was not enough evidence to convict them. Mphaphuli, on the other hand, handles this in a more successful way in *Nwana wa mme anga*, as criminals were tracked down and convicted as well.

### 2.3.3 Climax

A climax is a point where the action comes to a breaking point. It is the physical and emotional high point in the story. Swanepoel et al (1987:8) define climax as follows:

This is the invisible eruption, the breaking point, the pinnacle of tension, the phase of final decision. A change sets in which decides the lives and interests of the characters involved.

In other words, the climax is the point of interest or suspense in a story or play. It is the moment when the outcome of the conflict suddenly becomes clear. This phase is characterised by death, wars and fierce fighting. The forces in conflict reaches their moment of highest concentration and tension.

The narration of stories differs from one story to the other. Some stories begin from the

middle or end and proceed towards the beginning and came to the climax or resolution. Most of the climaxes of detective stories come when the detectives reveal the criminal and tell how the mystery is solved.

In *Bona la mboni*, the climax is reached when Roberto Fingo is arrested after killing Nndanduleni Ratshali. Richard reports the case to the police. The police hide next to Fingo's flat in order to arrest him. Fingo is arrested unexpectedly. In Mahamba (1989:96), the police say:

"Pholisa!" Ipfi li tshi ralo la vha li tshi amba henefha tshitikoni  
tsha Fingo, la dovha le, "u tou posa hanu liga, ndi u fa hanu.  
Dinekedzeni!"

*("Police!" the voice came from behind Fingo, and further  
says, "if you take one step forward, you die. Just surrender!")*.

From this quote we learn that Fingo is about to be arrested. The police disarm and handcuff him. They take him to the police station. Suspense is created as one wants to know whether Fingo will hide or disclose his criminal activity. A moment of high tension is created once more when Fingo does not want to speak the truth when he is requested to do so by the police. One may sympathise with him when he conceals the truth. The police are not going to leave him as he is. He deserves to be punished heavily.

Fingo o rwiwa u swika thoho yawe i si tsha nga yo dzula kha  
mutsinga u re na marambo, i tshi vho sokou, lembwe,  
lembwe, lembwe, i tshi wela hothe-hothe. Khedzi ila yo vha

i tshi vho sokou tatata..., i yone ya dovha ya pwaṭaa..., izwo hu musti Fingo a tshi femela nnda kana ngomu. (Mahamba, 1987:98).

(Fingo was bitten until his head felt like it was resting on a boneless neck. It was shaking in all directions. That bag was enlarging excessively..., again it move back..., that was when Fingo was exhaling and inhaling).

This is really a turmoil which Roberto Fingo is facing. The detectives put Fingo's head in a wet bag and then punch him until his head got dislodged from its neck. As a reader, one is interested to know whether Fingo will hide the information under this terrible and hard condition. He has been beaten up in such a way that he cannot do anything. Finally, Fingo discloses that he was with Everson and Gilbert when he killed Thizwilondi. That leads to the arrest of Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. It is Ratshali's death that leads to the arrest of the three perpetrators. The mystery that is encountered at the beginning of the story is solved when the criminals are caught and reveal their secret. We now encounter a normal situation in the lives of the characters. The investigation then comes to a halt as there are no other crimes to be traced.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the highest and most important point towards which the chain of events in the rising action has been moving is when the detectives confront Mukhakhisi's gang at Mangwele mountain in the cave. A fierce battle ensues between the police and Mukhakhisi's gang. Mphaphuli (1974:76) says:

Vho-Mavhona vho dzumbama henefho vha bvisa tsha u

dzimula muungo tshikwamani. Vha tshi toma mulomoni wa tshigidi tshavho.

*(While Mavhone was hiding there, he took out the silencer from the pocket and put it on the mouth of the gun).*

The extract indicates that detective Mavhone is ready to fight or shoot. When readers hear this, their interest is aroused. They anticipate what will follow. There is nothing else to follow except shooting.

Firstly, Mavhone kills Ganyani Makumbelo, one of Mukhaksisi's gang. Detective Mavhone takes Ganyani's jacket, balaclava hood and wears them so that he could not be noticed by other criminal. Detective Mavhone regards this as a fight for life and death. The detectives go further until they reach the top of the mountain. Gasanova Mudzangunye is also killed while he is on the way to the river to fetch some water. His clothes are taken by another detective who is accompanying Mavhone.

Detective Mavhone enters the cave carrying a basket with his hand. The criminals do not notice him. Mukhakhisi is killed meanwhile Frelimo, Julie and Jack, are arrested. Now that the criminals have been identified and arrested, there is no need for further investigation. The criminals are to be punished. The two kidnapped women, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are found. The defeat of Mukhakhisi's gang helps the detectives to arrest the criminals. The mystery of the kidnapped two women is solved as the victims are found. A stable and normal situation in the community is expected. From here, we move towards the end of the narration.

In *Bona la Mboni*, the climax is reached when Roberto Fingo kills Richard's uncle Nndanduleni Ratshali, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga* the climax is reached when the detectives fight Mukhakhisi's gang with guns at Mangwele mountain.

After the death of Ratshali, the two suspects (Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa) are arrested. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the two kidnapped women, together with Julie, Jack and Frelimo are captured and arrested by the police.

A criminal kills Nndanduleni Ratshali in *Bono la mboni*, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives kill a number of criminals in the cave. In both detective stories, guns are used.

The Perpetrator, Roberto Fingo, does not retaliate when the police arrest him in *Bono la Mboni*. Frelimo in *Nwana wa mme anga* tries to fight with the police but to no avail. In both selected detective stories, perpetrators are arrested by the detectives.

One criminal is killed in the climax of *Bono la Mboni*, whereas three criminals are killed in the climax of *Nwana wa mme anga*.

#### 2.3.4 The ending

The ending is the point at which the conflict in a literary work is resolved. It comes immediately after the climax when all conflicts in a narrative or dramatic work are resolved or mitigated. Mafela (1993:97) says:

The resolution is therefore the end of the conflict in a particular plot. In this part of the story, sometimes the author explains or unravels what has happened up to the climax.

In the ending of *Bono ja mboni* the three criminals, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are arrested by the police. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Frelimo, Julie and Jack are captured and arrested in the ending of this detective story. Mukhakhisi is killed in the cave. The death of Mukhakhisi and the arrest of the criminals bring the problem to a conclusion. The docket is closed because there is no other crime to be investigated.

Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are sentenced to 15 years in jail and Fingo is sentenced for life imprisonment in *Bono ja mboni*, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie pleads before her parents for the wrong she has done. At the end of both detective stories, the criminals are arrested. All in all, Mahamba and Mphaphuli succeed in bringing the resolution of the problem in their detective novels, as their stories come to an end immediately after the climax.

## 2.4 THE ELEMENT OF MYSTERY

The Oxford Large Print Dictionary (1988:539) defines mystery as:

A matter that remains unexplained or secret.

In detective stories, mystery occurs at the beginning of the narrative and remains unexplained or secret until it is disclosed or unmasked at the end of the story. Before it is unmasked, the detective engage themselves in the investigation. The Encyclopedia Britannica Volume 8 (1992:469) has this to say:

Mystery story-ages-old popular tales dealing with the unknown, it may be a narrative of horror and terror, a pseudoscientific fantasy, a crime solving story, .....

Mysteries involve situations which cannot be explained or understood. They are of



course invented stories about crime and murder. Mysterious facts and situations are sometimes intended to cause a feeling of extreme fear or dislike.

The fact that a detective story begins with a mystery to solve does not mean that in a detective story, only one mysterious fact or situation is found. We can find plenty of them which help to develop the main mystery at the beginning of the story.

Mystery plays an important role in a detective story. A detective story is not a detective story without a mystery to solve. Mystery creates suspense which builds up tension and excitement in the readers. These elements help to generate and sustain the reader's interest. Mystery may involve murder, kidnapping, hijacking, suicide, robbery that threaten society. It may sometimes end in surprise. Once mystery is resolved, it is no longer a problem to solve because readers come to know all what is secret. The unraveling of the mystery is reserved until the end of the story.

#### **2.4.1 Mystery in Bono la mboni**

In this detective story, mystery can be observed in two ways. The situation surrounding Thizwilondi's murder is mysterious. Thizwilondi and her boyfriends go to a music festival at Thohoyandou Stadium. No single member of the family saw her go to the music festival. At the music festival, Thizwilondi falls in love with a great singer from America, Eddie Williams. Thizwilondi's boyfriends, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa plan to kill her because of her unfaithfulness. From that day, Thizwilondi is never seen again. Her parents do not know her whereabouts. Members of the family are shocked by her disappearance. Thizwilondi's mother Eveline asks Ntshengedzeni about Thizwilondi's whereabouts, but no true evidence is ever given. Richard asks where his mother is, but Eveline beats him up. This is an indication that the whole family is engulfed by fear and confusion. The mystery of the disappearance of Thizwilondi intensifies when her body is found by the police and identified by the people near

Tshiseluselu Community Hall. That creates a serious problem for her parents and the community as they do not know her murderers. Here, suspense is created for the readers as they want to know who the perpetrators are:

Mahamba (1989:14) has this to say:

Matsheloni aya zwa mudini wa ha Silidzhi a zwo ngo vha zwo nakaho na khathihi. Musi Richard a tshi tou amba la mme awe vho faho nga u tou phadzhiwa, makhulu wawe vha dzhenwa nga zwo vha siaho vha si tsha vha muthu wa tshithu. Tshirivha tsho vha faraho tsha vha rwela fhasi vha sala vha tshi nga mufu. Ndi mafhungo eneo e vha afha mudini vha si tsha divha uri vha do a kona hani. Ntshengedzeni o do vha ene o gidimaho u yo vhidza khotsi.

(That morning, things in Silidzhi's family were worse. When Richard speaks about his deceased mother who was killed, his grandmother was incredibly shocked. She was caught by a fever that left her a dead person. It was that news that made Silidzhi's family not know what to do. Ntshengedzeni went to call her father).

From the above extract, we learn that Silidzhi's family is mourning the terrible and untimely death of a member of the family. Her death is unexplained and it shocks everyone. The incident of the death of Thizwilondi calls for the detective to try and unravel the mystery. Thizwilondi's death forms the core of this detective story, as the whole story revolves around it.

On the other hand, as indicated above, Thizwilondi's murderers are mysterious. The plan made by Thizwilondi's boyfriends to kill her is not known by anyone else except the murderers themselves. They kill her and disappear. The detectives make a thorough search for these criminals. The perpetrators bribe John Makumbe as well as Dick Marvin. They give Dick Marvin R20 000 to defend them during the trial. Apart from that, Gilberts falls in love with Ntshengedzeni so that she could defend him in court. The three suspects are twice acquitted from jail. Their acquittal surprises people and, most importantly, hurts Richard very much. The three suspects were released because of bribery. Mahamba (1989:101) says:

Ndi nga vhumbulu ha Marvin, he nne nda vho fhedza ndo ri a thi na mulandu, na khothe ya kondelwa nga mafhungo a hone. Dick Marwin, ndi ene we a thusa Vho-Eveline Silidzhi khathihi na Ntshengedzeni, uri vha shanduksie vhutanzi havho ha vho fhambana na ha vhanwe.

*(It was Marvin's deceit that eventually made me innocent, and made it difficult for the court to settle that matter. Dick Marwin was the one who helped Eveline Silidzhi and Ntshengedzeni to change their testimony to conflict with the testimonies of others).*

In the above extract, Fingo is revealing all what he has done with his friends. Characters are now aware of Thizwilondi's killers. The suspects are now exposed to the public. Through Fingo's testimony, the mystery of Thizwilondi's death is resolved. The people are surprised and shocked when these suspects are revealed. From here, justice takes its course.

One can conclude that mystery causes suspense and surprise. The mystery of the death of Thizwilondi creates suspense as the readers are anticipating to know the identity of the perpetrators who killed her. Once the criminals are revealed people become surprised because they have all along been waiting to see them.

#### 2.4.2 **Mystery in *Nwana wa mme anga***

In this detective story, mystery is realised in two versions. The kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani is mysterious. Jack and Julie kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani near Raluswielo Secondary School while they are on their way to a optometrist. Their husbands (Ndikandafhi and Ndifelani respectively) and even the police do not their whereabouts. In Mphaphuli (1974:0) when replying Muofhe, Carole says:

Ndi nga si kone u talutshedza fhanu vhukati ha gondo. Nga lufuno lwa vhutshilo kha vha namele vhuvhili havho. Ndi do talutshedza nga u dala phanda.

*(I cannot explain in detail here on the road. For love of life you better all get in. I shall explain in full ahead).*

Carole says this when kidnapping Muofhe and Mutshinyani. They take them to Mafangambiti's old house at Shayandima where they lock them up. Tension builds up among the characters as a result of this. Ndikandafhi and Ndifelani are shocked when they hear about the disappearance of their wives. The police and people get confused. This mystery intensifies when detectives receive several calls that instruct them to release the four prisoners at Vondwe prison. Instead of releasing them, the police go on with their investigation. Suspense is created when readers are eager to know whether the two kidnapped women and criminals would be found.

Muofhe and Mutshinyani's kidnappers are mysterious because after they kidnapped them, Julie and Jack disappeared for a long period without being identified. They hide themselves in Mafangambiti's house at Shayandima Location. The police hunt them without trace. After a long period, the police get wind of those two suspects and tack them down until they find them.

The mystery of Muofhe and Mutshinyani's kidnapping is resolved when the police find them after a fierce with Mukhakhisi's gang. The women are taken back to their husbands. Now that they have been found the problem is solved and the mystery is resolved too.

Looking at this aspect of mystery in both two detective novels, Mahamba uses the mystery of Thizwilondi's death to develop his plot, whereas Mphaphuli uses the mystery of the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani to develop his plot.

Thizwilondi's mysterious death causes her parents, son, brothers and sisters as well as the community at large to be confused and not to know what to do with that untimely death. The members of the family and the community are surprised.. They went to know the identity of her killers. This causes suspense for the readers. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the mystery of the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani surprises the husbands and the police. Ndifelani and Ndikandafhi are surprised because they have never experienced criminal activities like this in Venda. The interest of the readers is also aroused as they wonder why this crime happens and what will happen to the perpetrators if they are found.

Thizwilondi's murderers are mysterious because they killed her and disappeared for a long period without being disclosed in *Bono la mboni*. Muofhe and Mutshinyani's kidnappers are mysterious because they kidnapped them and disappeared for a long

period until they are found by the detectives.

The mystery in *Bono la Mboni* is resolved when Thizwilondi's murderers are found after the death of Nndanduleni Ratshali. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the mystery is resolved when the police recapture the two kidnapped women at Mangwele Mountain.

From the discussion above, it is clear that, mystery causes suspense and surprise in both two detective novels. In *Bono la mboni*, mystery intensifies when Thizwilodi's body is discovered near Tshiseluselu Community Hall whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the mystery intensifies when Ndikandafhi receives unanimous telephone calls which instruct him to release the four prisoners at Vondwe Prison. Mahamba and Mphaphuli handle the aspect of mystery successfully to develop their plots in their detective stories.

## 2.5 DRAMATIC IRONY IN THE SELECTED NOVELS

Dramatic irony, a character or group of characters plan to do something bad to a certain character. Other characters want to inform the victim about the danger to come. The victim, because of inappropriate knowledge, ignores the danger. As a result, he eventually gets into trouble. Abrams (1993:99) says:

Dramatic irony involves a situation in a play or a narrative in which the audience or reader shares with the author knowledge of present or future circumstances of which a character is ignorant, in that situation, the character unknowingly acts in a way we recognize to be grossly inappropriate to the actual circumstances, or expects the opposite of what we know fate holds in store, says something that anticipates the actual outcome, but not at all in the way that the character intends.

This means that a character does what he thinks is good for himself or herself, but the readers or other characters know that something different is going to happen to him or her. They try to advise him or her but he or she ignores the advice. So, readers anticipate to see whether the outcome will be in the way that the character intends.

Meyer and Baigernt (1989:100) say that dramatic irony is:

a work, action or situation in a drama with a special importance or meaning unknown to some characters but known to the audience.

This means that, in dramatic irony, certain information is concealed from some of the characters. The audience may sometimes know the situation. The information regarding certain actions or situations is hidden to some characters because of their ignorance. The result may sometimes be bad. The element of dramatic irony creates suspense as readers wait to see whether the planned action will be achieved or not. The full impact of ironic situations only strikes the reader at a second reading.

However, suspense becomes endless if the action is delayed. There is not doubt that dramatic irony and suspense are inseparable elements of fiction. Hereunder follows an assessment of the use of the aspect of dramatic irony by Mahamba and Mphaphuli.

### 2.5.1 Dramatic irony in *Bono la mboni*

A noteworthy instance, which also has a bearing on the development of the plot, is when Thizwilondi falls pregnant. Se secretly plans with her mother to trap Mulamuli. Thizwilondi's younger sister Ntshengedzeni discovers that plan. She informs Mulamuli to be careful when he is with Thizwilondi. Thizwilondi and her mother Eveline do not

know that their secret has been discovered. Readers' interest is aroused to see if Mulamuli will be ignorant in that situation. Thizwilondi invites Mulamuli to come and pay her a special visit. She decorates the room very nicely. Everything in the room is beautified to the full to steal Mulamuli's heart. She wears a see-through dress. She tries by all means to attract Mulamuli but she fails. She tries to force Mulamuli to sleep with her but he refuses. Thizwilondi does not know that Mulamuli is ware of the trap. But readers are aware that Thizwilondi would never achieve her plan as Ntshengedzeni has informed Mulamuli. In her heart and that of her mother, they think that they are going to win Mulamuli's heart. Things turn upside down. They do not happen in the way that Thizwilondi and her mother intended as Mulamuli totally refuses to make love to Thizwilondi. This is a dramatic irony, though it does not involve the detection of crime.

Another instance where Mahamba uses dramatic irony is when Thizwilondi's boyfriends plan to kill her after finding out about her love affair with Eddie Williams. This happens during the music festival at Thohoyandou Stadium.

In Mahamba (1989:56) Robert Fingo says to his friends:

Atsina zwo tou ralo? Uyo o vha Robert Fingo. "Izwo kha a gume u tshila Thizwilondi, lawe kha li vhe lo tshaho li sa do kovhela. Ni ri mini vhanna vha ..." Fingo a sa athu fhedza u amba a katudzwa nga Gilbert.

*("Is that the case?" That was Roberto Fingo. "Thizwilondi's life must be terminated, hers should be the one that arose and never set. What do you say men ..." Fingo is interrupted by Gilbert before he can finish speaking).*



Fingo says this after discovering that Thizwilondi is in love with Eddie Williams. Through this dialogue, readers share knowledge with the author that something bad is going to happen to Thizwilondi because of her unfaithfulness. She is completely unaware of what they are planning to do to her. After the festival, she gets into Fingo's car, thinking that she is going home. She is not aware of their plan to kill her. In the small Heaven Bar Lounge, Thizwilondi dances with Eddie Williams. Her boyfriends become very angry. John Makumbe, who is the foreman in this Bar Lounge, witnesses that event. On her way home, she is strangled and burnt. She does not reach home. Because of her ignorance, readers feel sympathy for her as they know that she is going to be killed, and indeed, she is killed.

The dramatic irony turns into a mystery. Thizwilondi's death creates a lot of problems as her killers are not known. The detection of her death begins. This helps to develop the plot of this detective novel as the perpetrators are apprehended and the end of the story.

### **2.5.2 Dramatic irony in *Nwana wa mme anga***

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Mphaphuli uses dramatic irony in a number of situations. An example is when Carole pretends to love Jack Maora in order to get help from him. Through the narrative discourse, readers become aware that Carole does not really love Jack. She needs help from Jack, as he is a brave man who is also a criminal. Carole knows Jack very well whereas Jack does not know Carole very well. Carole wants Jack to help her to release her twin brother Fhatuwani who is at Vondwe Prison. Readers share knowledge with the author through the narrative discourse that Jack is going to get into trouble because of his ignorance. One feels sympathy for him when he tries to release criminals from jail and it is not an easy thing. Because of his ignorance, he is kidnapped by Mukhakhisi and his gang and finally ends up in jail.

Another dramatic irony is revealed at Messina in Mafangambiti's house. Readers are

aware that the police will encounter Mukhakhisi's gang. The police and Mukhakhisi are not aware of this incident. Mukhakhisi's gang want to re-kidnap the two women and their perpetrators. The police, on the other hand, are busy with their investigation. When they meet at Mafangambiti's house, the reader's interest is aroused. A fierce fighting occurs and detective Tshihadu is killed. Both the author and the readers are aware of this fight.

The Mangwele incident also occurs dramatically. Mukhakhisi and his gang take the two kidnapped women together with their kidnappers and hide them in the cave at Mangwele mountain. These criminals are not aware of the police but readers know that the police are following them. Readers interest is aroused when the police prepare for the fight. Mukhakhisi and his gang think that they are about to achieve their purpose. Things happen in the way that they were not intended. The police arrive at the mountain and kill some of the criminals. The other criminals who are not killed, are arrested. This result to the failure of Mukhakhisi's plan, hence a dramatic irony.

Both Mahamba and Mphaphuli use love to achieve dramatic irony in their detective novels. In Mahamba, Thizwilondi and her mother planned to catch Mulamuli to be Thizwilondi's husband but their plan fails. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie pretends to love Jack whereas she is not. She wins him but ultimately their plan fails.

Thizwilondi in *Bono la mboni* is killed because of her unfaithfulness. She has many boyfriends. Her boyfriends discover her unfaithfulness and decide to kill her. In *Nwana wa mme anga* Jack is convinced by Julie to assist her in her plan to have Fhatuwani released from jail. She pretends as if she loves Jack. On the other hand, Jack is not aware that he is going to get into trouble. He is ultimately arrested and locked up in jail.

In *Bono la mboni*, Mulamuli is aware of the plan which Thizwilondi and her mother have planned as Thizwilondi's younger sister Ntshengedzeni informs him about that plan in

advance. Jack in *Nwana wa mme anga* is not aware that Julie wants to deceive him in order to achieve her purpose of releasing her twin brother Fhatuwani from jail.

Ntshengedzeni, Mulamuli, the readers know the plan of Thizwilondi and her mother Eveline for trapping Mulamuli to be Thizwilondi's husband in *Bono la mboni* whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie, the readers and the author know the plan of Julie to deceive Jack Maora so that he should help her to release Fhatuwani from jail.

The plan to kill Thizwilondi *Bono la mboni* is known by Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson, Gilbert Tshirwa, the author and readers. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the readers, author and the police know that the police are going to fight the suspects at Mangwele mountain whereas Mukhakhisi and his gang are not aware.

In this respect, Mahamba and Mphaphuli try their level best in depicting dramatic irony in their detective novels. The dramatic irony involving Thizwilondi on the day of her death helps to develop the plot in *Bono la mboni*. In *Nwana wa mme anga* the dramatic irony that involves the kidnapping of Mutshinyani and Muofhe helps in the progression of the plot.

## 2.6 RÉSUMÉ

In this chapter, it has been observed that the plot is what happens in a story or the vehicle in which other elements of the story are transported.

In *Bono la mboni*, the crime occurs when Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa strangle and burn Thizwilondi Silidzhi after the music festival that is held at Thohoyandou Stadium. This crime forms the core of this detective story since it is a problem which is investigated by the police. The police fail to investigate the problem. They are assisted by Thizwilondi's child, Richard, to arrest the three suspects.

The crime committed in *Nwana wa mme anga* is of the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani by Julie and Jack. It is the problem that the police are investigating throughout this detective story. The police never fail in their investigation until they arrest the suspects at the end of the story.

It is also interesting to note that *Bono la mboni* is part detective and part social novel. The crime occurs in the rising of action. From there, the police start with their detection. The detection in *Nwana wa mme anga* starts at the beginning as Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped at the beginning of this detective story.

Looking at the plot of a detective story and that of an ordinary novel, there is a remarkable difference. A plot of a detective story differs from a plot of an ordinary novel because it is full of mystery, suspense and surprise.

Mphaphuli handles the plot of a detective story more efficiently than Mahamba because his detection of crime is initiated from the beginning in *Nwana wa mme anga*. Mahamba fails because detection starts late in the middle of the detective story. The following chapter examines the place and time where the events took place.

## CHAPTER 3

### 3. SETTING

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Novelists make their narratives seem more real and true through the device of setting. The concept of setting refers to the time and place where events and actions in the story take place. Mafela (1993:103) says that events and actions in a narrative may take place at home, school, church, at the river, under the tree or even in the car. This means that they can take place anywhere. The behaviour of the characters and their actions should suit the place and the time in which they take place. Tapply (1191:13) remarks:

Setting comprises all the conditions under which things happen; region, geography, neighborhood, buildings, interiors, climate, weather, time of day, season of year.

This means that events in a narrative may be influenced by any of the above mentioned geographical conditions.

From the observation above, it is apparent that setting denotes the place and time in a literary work, that is, the where and when of a story or play. Hawthorn (1985:102) says:

... the events directed could take place in many different locations ...

In fact, events and actions in literary work are not bound to occur in one specific place. Setting in a narrative changes continuously. The atmosphere also shifts accordingly to suit the actions. An author should not force events to occur where they do not fit. When setting changes, it goes hand in hand

with the development of the plot.

While referring to detective story, Porter (1982:189) says:

A crime always occurs and is solved in a place that, depending on the tradition in which an author is working, will be evoked with more or less precision. A detective finds himself situated in a physical environment whose latent moral significance may be explicit or implicit, apparent from the beginning or uncovered only at a later date.

The author may give the place where events take place implicitly or explicitly. When the space is given in an implicit way, readers can identify/determine the place where the character finds himself or herself. Setting does not imply only the place and time under which events take place, it also involves the psychological and social aspects of the characters. The way in which a character thinks, behaves, lives with others, his or her lifestyle, what he or she dressed and eats is all related to the setting or society in which he or she lives. Setting in a detective novel therefore refers to the time and place of action of the story where the detectives, criminals and victims are engaged in their activities.

Hereunder follows an analysis of setting in the selected detective stories, taking into account the crime committed, topographical features, characters, police in investigation and tools used by the suspects and detectives.

### 3.2 SETTING IN THE TWO SELECTED DETECTIVE STORIES

The place where events take place in *Bono la mboni* is Hatshivhasa in Thohoyandou and Tshiseluselu. The events take place in modern times where people have access to

modern technology. Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa travel by car when they go to the festival at Thohoyandou. Mahamba (1989:62) says:

U pambuwa ha golo ho vha u fara kubada kutuku ku fira ho tsini ha vhengele, kwa mbo di yela holoni ya tshitshavha. U gidima ha golo ho vha hone, hone afho goloini ho vha hu si tshee na u ambaho na munwe. Musi hu hone mavhone a golo a tshi tou ri kha holo vaa, ha vha hu musi. Thizwilondi a tshi pfa mbilu i tshi ri vhaa! Ndi nenefha he a vho thomou amba.

(After turning, they went onto a small road which passes next to a shop, then leads to the community hall. The car was travelling at high speed, there was no one speaking. When the lights of the car beamed on the hall, it was then that Thizwilondi started feeling fearfull! From there she started talking).

From the extract, it is clear that Thizwilondi, Robert Fingo, Thomas Everson, Gilbert Tshirwa are travelling by car. They are on their way home after the music festival at Thohoyandou Stadium. In as far as the festival is concerned, Greeks and other nations have had festivals as early as before Christ. Even the Vhavenda people also held festivals at the chief's kraal. Those festivals included the Tshigombela and Matangwa after gaining victory from the war, but those festivals were different from the one Thizwilondi attended. Thizwilondi attends the music festival which is held during the day or night where people spend the whole day or night with their beloved ones and entertain themselves by drinking beer. This indicates that the events in this detective story are taking place in modern Venda.

Another incident that indicates an example of the time during which the events take place in this detective story is when Roberto Fingo accidentally kills Nndanduleni Ratshali. In Mahamba (1989:95), it is stated:

Tshifhinganyana nangoho ila golo i tshi lavhelesea nomboro yayo, a wana i yone. Thathu vha re ngomu hayo vho vha vha tshee vhavhili. Musi golo i tshi sendela, Fingo a vha a tshi lugisa tshihali. Tshawe, tshanda tsha longwa tshikwamani, nahone tsha fara luthathe. Golo i tshi fhungudza luvhilo, i tshi da nga qwituku tshitoponi, Fingo a vha a tshi latela nga mbili gulu nga hanengei ho dzulaho ane a si khou reila.

*(Meanwhile, the car's registration number becomes visible, he found it to be the right one. There were still two people in the car. When the car approached, Fingo prepared his weapon, put the hand in his pocket, then it caught the trigger. The car slowed down as it approached the stop sign, Fingo then released two bullets and his the person sitting in the passenger seat).*

In the above extract, we observe that Fingo is hiding while waiting for Nndanduleni Ratshali's car to arrive at the stop sign. When it approached he fired two bullets at Nndanduleni, thinking that he was shooting Richard. Fortunately, Richard was not driving the car. The road, the stop sign together with the gun that is used by Fingo are of modern time because in olden days these things were not accessible to ordinary people. The shooting also illustrates the advanced in modern technology as the people use sophisticated weapons such as guns. In the olden days people used spears and stones



to kill animals and people.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the events take place in Venda and its neighbouring town Messina. The events in *Nwana wa mme anga* start at Thohoyandou, then Sibasa, Makwarela, Shayandima, Messina, Mangwele mountain and finally in jail.

Additional proof that the events take place in modern time, where people are advanced in modern technology is observed when Mutshinyani travels by a taxi from Thohoyandou to Sibasa Post Office. Mphaphuli (1974:4) says:

Vho no onesana vha mbo di ya badani. Vha fara thekhisi.  
Ndi yeneila thekhisi tswuku ye ya ri i tshi swika Tshiluvhi  
fhala tsini na hodela ya Thohoyandou ya namelwa nga  
Mutshinyani mufumakadzi wa Vho-Ndifelani.

(After bidding each other farewell she went to the road. The boarded a taxi. It is that red taxi which Mutshinyani, the wife of Ndifelani boarded when it reached Tshiluvhi next to Thohoyandou hotel).

People board taxis from Thohoyandou to Sibasa. Mutshinyani, the wife of Ndifelani also boards a taxi. In olden days, people used to travel a long distance on foot, which is hardly heard of today. Nowadays, taxis are used to transport people from one place to another. This means of transport is of modern time. In view of this explanation, one can suggest that the time in which events take place in this detective story is modern.

Moreover, the crimes committed in both detective stories, i.e. kidnapping and murder, are also modern. In the olden days it was impossible to find three or more men killing a lady

whom they are all involved in love affairs with. Thizwilondi is in love with different men, i.e., Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. The three friends discover Thizwilondi's unfaithfulness and decide to end her life. She is raped, strangled and burnt to death. This method of killing Thizwilondi in *Bono la mboni* is practice in modern times.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped by Julie and Jack. Kidnapping and keeping the victim hostage with the intention of demanding money or the release of prisoners in practice in modern times. The means of transport and guns used in both two detective stories also prove that the events take place in modern time.

### 3.2.1 **Setting and crime committed**

Crime is an important element of a detective story. Detection is carried out because of the crime committed - without a crime committed there can be no detection.

In both selected detective novels, an emphasis will be placed on the types of crimes and the influence of setting on the crimes committed.

Stephen Schafer and Richard Knudten in Senna and Seigel (1984:184) state: "Crime is a conduct or an action that is defined and codified in law as a crime".

In other words, crime is an offence which is punishable by law. The act of crime is unacceptable to the community. Every person is expected to lead a good life or behave in away which is acceptable by the community. Any person who violates the law deserves to be punished.

The crime committed in *Bono la mboni* is Thizwilondi's murder by Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. She is raped, strangled and burnt. This type of crime occurs in Thohoyandou township. Thohoyandou has many recreational facilities such as

a stadium where music is played, cinemas, hotels, boarding schools, and a bar lounge that may attract foreigners. In this town, which hosts people from all walks of life, people from different racial groups with different cultural backgrounds, a town where loafers are found, people anticipate social evils like Thizwilondi's murder to take place. Roberto Fingo is a coloured man and Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are also of different nationalities. The three friends decide to kill Thizwilondo on the day of the music festival held at Thohoyandou Stadium after finding out about her affair with Eddie Williams. Most girls today, as a result of unfaithfulness, have a tendency to be involved with many boyfriends. For this reason Thizwilondi is killed by her boyfriends. In Mahamba (1989:59) Fingo says:

"Ni vhona i mini yeneyi vhanna vha hashu?" Fingo u ralo o di sedza henengei luvhandeni sa we a vha a tshi khou amba zwithu zwi si na ndeme. A tshi isa phanda e, "Tuwisani khonani yanu Thomas, ni a zwi vhona musu uri uyu munna o da u ri tangula?".

("What is this you see my friends?" Fingo says this while looking at the open space as if what he is saying is insignificant. He further says, "Take away your friend Thomas, do you see that this man come to take what belongs to us?").

From this extract, a colored man Roberto Fingo is extremely upset because of what Thizwilondi is doing with Williams. She is dancing with Williams in the small Heaven disco hall. If people of different nationalities club together or befriend each other, they may sometimes influence one another to do crime because they will be influenced by their backgrounds. Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson, Gilbert Tshirwa influence each

other to end Thizwilondi's life after finding out about her unfaithfulness.

The crime committed in this detective novel is compatible with the setting of the story because it is committed in a mysterious way and furthermore it helps the development of action in this detective story.

Robert Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa pass via small Heaven bar lounge where they drink heavily after the festival. In that bar lounge, boys and girls; men and women drink and dance with great joy.

Mahamba (1989:59) says:

"Madakalo a afho sosani, ho ngo vha a u nwa fhedzi; ngauri ndi nenefho lonzhini he ha vha ho dovha hafhu ha vha fhethu hu divhelwaho u tshiniwa hone musu hu tshi khou lidzwa qwilidzo. U tshina ho vha hu ha vhane vha haya, hu tshi tshina vhathangga, vhasidzana, vhanna na vhasadzi, avho vo tangana mbeuni, muvhalani na kha ndimi. Mafhungo a afha holoni ya disco ndi mafhungo o nakaho, hone a songo dowelea. E one mafhungo ayo, a nakela vhane, afho hu tshi ambwa vhenevho vha qwi itaho".

*(The joy of the people in the bar lounge is not caused by drinking only but also the dancing and music bands. The people who are dancing are boys, girls, men and women who are citizens of the country. They differ in sex, color and language. What is happening in that disco hall is good but strange. It pleases those who are doing it).*

This extract portrays what is happening in the Small Heaven bar lounge. People of different sex, colors and language are dancing and drinking heavily. Thizwilondi is also among them, dancing with Eddie Williams. In this place where people of different sex, color and language dance and drink heavily, one may anticipate social evil to take place as they will be under the influence of liquor. And indeed, Fingo and his friends notice Thizwilondi's unfaithfulness when she dances with Eddie Williams and decide to end her life. The bar lounge, being one of the settings in this detective novel, influences the suspects to commit crime after they have seen Thizwilondi dancing with Williams. The people in Small Heaven disco hall disperse due to the electric cut-off at one o'clock during that night. The weather changes during that time.

The weather as one of the geographical factors when Thizwilondi is murdered is conducive to the crime. Mahamba (1989:63) describes the weather condition as follows:

Naho musadzi uyo o todou sa funa u sa tsa, hone o do guma o tsa. Afho nnda ya vha i si yone phepho; hu tshi rothola hu tshi tou thwee! Mvula yo vha i tshi di nga i todou na hu tshi tou nga i khou thivhelwa nga u bvuma ha mithathabo na dziphenyo. Two tangana na madumbu e a vha a tshi vho nga a tshilimo. Madumbu one ndi tshifhinga tsha uri a thome. Swiswi na lone lo vha lo tou bo; afho holoni hu sa pfali tshithu nga nnda ha phosho ya tshikhwitha tshe tsha vha tshi tshi pfala tshi tshi ri, "Hu-huu!" nga murahu ha tshifhinga. Muano wa vhuraru ndi wa uri a zwi pfi kha muthu munyu.

*(Although that women did not want to get out of the car, she eventually got out. It was extremely cold, it was about to rain,*

*but it seemed as if this was prevented by thunderstorm and lightning. It was also extremely dark and nothing was heard at the hall except the noise of a crying own which was heard making a sound like "Hu-huu" after a long time. The oath of the three is that of not telling anybody).*

With the above extract, Mahamba wants to associate bad weather with the evil events that would be taking place during the night. When it rains with thunderstorm and lightning, people quickly return to their houses because of fear. It is rare to find a person walking outside in such bad weather conditions. The criminals, thieves and thugs become free to do their activities without fear as they could not be seen by anybody. Thizwilondi is killed in that terrible weather condition. In Venda, thunderstorms, lightning and darkness are associated with evil. The darkness and thunderstorm played an important role while the criminals kill Thizwilondi. Because of darkness and the thunderstorm, the perpetrators think that they would not be noticed by anybody and it would be difficult for the detectives to trace them since it was very dark and raining.

Mphaphuli (1974:7) says:

Thekhisi ila tswuku yo namelwaho nga mufumakadzi wa Vho-Ndikandafhi yori u swika fhala hune thekhisi dzothe dza temba hone, na yone ya ima mudubani na nzinwe. Vhanameli vha tsa. Carole Thingahangwi Maitakhole a diimela zwawe tsini na darata ya mapholisani, o vha a tshi kha di lavhelesa ngeno hu uri kha mufhiri wa gondo a tshi nga o farakanea nga u vhala guranda. Mureili a tshi dzhia tshelede ya Vho-Muofhe Ndikandafhi, Carole o vha a khou di zwi vhona. Vho no badela vha livha poswoni. A vha tevhela

nga murahu a sa fheli mbilu. A vhona vha tshi dzhena poswoni. A tshi swika munangoni ndi musu vha tshi vho bva. Poswoni ho vha ho dala vhathu.

*(When the red taxi boarded by Ndikandafhi's wife approaches the taxi rank, the passengers get out. Carole Thingahangwi Maitakhole stands next to the police station fence. She looks as if she is busy reading newspaper. When the driver takes money from Muofhe Ndikandifhi, Carole was still looking on. After paying, she went to the post office. Carole followed her patiently. She saw her getting into the post office. When she arrived at the entrance, Ndikandafhi's wife was getting out. In the post office there were many people).*

From this extract, we learn that Julie is following the wife of the honourable judge of Thohoyandou in order to kidnap her. She is following the women while hiding among other people who are walking up and down in the town of Sibasa. The artificially created feature like Sibasa Town together with Makwarela and Shayandima townships may become fertile ground for criminal activities. In town there are people coming from all walks of life with varying social and cultural backgrounds. It is the place where criminals such as robbers, hijackers, kidnappers and killers are found. People walk in fear of these criminals. In this detective story, Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani Ndifelani travel on foot from Sibasa Post Office to Makwarela Location where there is an optometrist.

Mphaphuli (1974:7) says:

“Nangoho vhuvhili havho vhaia vhafumakadzi vha mbo fara bada ila i fhiraho nga tsini na tshikolo tsha Raluswielo. A vha

sala murahu a sa tsha divha uri a nga dzhia mini a vhea mini”.

*(Indeed, both women take the road that passed next to the School of Raluswielo. They followed them, not knowing what to do).*

From this extract, we learn that Muofhe and Mutshinyani are on their way to the optometrist at Makwarela Location. Julie is following in order to kidnap them. The two women are eventually kidnapped. Roads in towns are always busy. The cars and people normally move up and down. So, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped on the busy road next to Raluswielo Secondary School. The distance between Sibasa and Makwarela is a little big long. That area had bushes and tall grass. There is a possibility that in such an area, people may be kidnapped or hijacked. No wonder Julie and Jack are able to kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani. The township surrounding Thohoyandou town have an influence on the setting of this detective novel. The townships include Shayandima and Makwarela. In townships, old deserted houses are found. Criminals normally hide in these houses so that they cannot be easily identified by the detectives and residents of that place. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie and Jack kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani and hide them in Mafangambiti's deserted house at Shayandima Location.

In this detective novel, Mphaphuli (1974:19) has this to say:

Modoro wa Jack wo ri u takuwaGammbani wa fara bada i tsaho nga Mbaleni. Wo ri u swika tshigontirini tshi re tsini na vhukavhamabufho ha Tshiulungoma wa livha vhukovhela. Vhafumakadzi a fho ngo kona u divha uri vho livha ngafhi ngauri dennde lo vha li si na mafasitere.



*(Immediately when Jack's car left Gammbani, it took the road that passes via Mbaleni. When it approached the tarred road next to Tshiulungoma airport, it turned to the west. The women did not notice where they were going because the canopy did not have windows).*

From this extract, it appears that Julie and Jack are going to the old house of Mafangambiti at Shayandima Location. This house is no longer used. The perpetrators, Julie and Jack, intend to hide Muofhe and Mutshinyani in the abandoned house with the intention to rescue Julie's brother Fhatuwani from prison.

Therefore, old deserted are sometimes a refuge for criminals. They sleep there while they are busy with their criminal activities.

In case of Julie, she and her brother Fhatuwani desert their parents. Julie gets married to Mpariseni in Botswana, who suddenly passes away. Fhatuwani joined criminal gangs who used to rob banks. Now that Fhatuwani is arrested, Julie wants to have him released from jail with the help of Jack Maora who is a notorious criminal. While they are demanding that the detectives should release Fhatuwani, Julie and Jack are hiding in Mafangambiti's deserted house in Shayandima.

The keeping of the two women in the abandoned house helps in the development of the action in this detective story because it makes the detectives search for them.

The author also uses Mangwele Mountain in *Nwana wa mme anga* to make the detective story more convincing. The criminals, Mukhakhisi and his gang, after capturing the two women, hide in the cave at Mangwele Mountain, Mphaphuli, (1974:76) says this about Mangwele Mountain:

U gonya thavha ya Mangwele zwi toda vhuronwane. Arali wa sa tou zwi dzhiela nzhele u nga ritha matombo a kunguluwa a tshi humela murahu u huvhadza vha re murahu. Fhedzi mapholisa vhunga vhe vhathu vho digudisaho zwithu zwinzhi vho vha vha tshi tou gonya sa zwimange.

*(It is not easy to climb Mangwele mountain. If one is not careful enough, one can cause a stone to fall and injure those who are following behind. The detectives, as they have taught themselves a variety of things, climb it like cats).*

The above extract reveals the difficulty that one can come across when climbing Mangwele Mountain. One needs great care to climb it. The author reveals, that this mountain is difficult to climb for people who are not familiar with it. In olden days, the Vhavenda people used to use the mountains as the place of refuge against attack by their enemies. They are familiar with the mountains and big forests. The Vhavenda people do not fear to climb mountains.

In the past, when Vhavenda were attacked by Mabunyu people (Nguni people), the Mangwele Mountain in Tshakhuma served as a refuge. The Vhavenda in Tshakhuma fled to this mountain and hid themselves in the caves. When the Swazis and Zulus followed them, they blocked the way by rolling big stones and as a result, they defeated them. Hence the name Tshakhuma tsha Madzivhandila (Tshakhuma of road blocker) because the Vhavenda blocked of the Swazis and Zulus by rolling stones while the Swazis and Zulus were trying to follow them at the top of Mongwele mountain.

Mukhakhisi and his gang are of Venda nationality. They are familiar with this mountain. This can be seen after they have captured the two women from the hands of Julie and

Jack. Mukhakhisi and his gang hide in the cave in Mangwele Mountain. This mountain has an influence on the setting of this detective story.

Mukhakhisi and his gang do crime with the intention of hiding themselves in the mountains as they are familiar with them. The detectives find it simple to climb this mountain. That is the reason why they succeed in arresting the criminals.

In *Bono la mboni*, Thizwilondi is killed during the night when the weather conditions are very bad, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped on the road near Raluswielo Secondary School in broad daylight.

Venda country, with its recreational facilities like stadiums, bar lounge, flats., and the weather conditions and bushes influenced crime in *Bono la mboni* because Roberto Fingo and his friends do crime in darkness; and after committing crime Fingo hides in the bush thinking that he will not be identified. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Julie and Jack hide in Mafangambiti's old deserted house after kidnapping Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Again, Mukhakhisi and his gang, after re-kidnapping Muofhe and Mutshinyani together with Julie and Jack, hide in the cave at Mangwele Mountain.

It seems as if the perpetrators in both detective novels commit crime knowing where they will hide themselves, as they are familiar with the geographical features of the Venda countryside.

All in all, weather conditions such as darkness and thunderstorms, topographical features such as towns, flats and bushes play an important role in influencing the characters, especially the criminals, to behave the way they did in *Bono la mboni*. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Thohoyandou town and the old deserted house, Mangwele Mountain with its caves influence the criminals in this detective novel, to act the way they did because the

criminals hide there after committing crime. It is their place of refuge.

### 3.2.2 Setting and Characters

Characters are fictional persons who take part in the action of work of literature. The plot of a story is generally focused on the main character. Minor characters keep the action moving forward and help the reader learn more about the main characters.

W J Havey, as cited by Makgamantha (1992:84), sums up the functional role of characters ver aptly when he says:

They are vehicles by which all the most interesting questions are raised, they evoke our beliefs, sympathies, revulsion, they incarnate the moral vision of the world inherent in the total novel. In a sense they are end-products, they are what the novel exists for, it exists to reveal them.

I should be borne in mind that the plot is regarded as the product of the characters' action. The characters are responsible for carrying out the action in a story. In a narrative, characters are depicted in two different ways i.e. explicit (direct) and implicit (indirect) characterisation. Explicit characterisation occurs when a character makes self-analysis, talks about himself to other characters and when the narrator makes explicit statements about a character whereas implicit characterisation is applied through the actions of the characters, speech, appearance and environment (Grobler et al 1992:68-89). They carry their action within an established setting. Characters are therefore an integral part of the story. The actions of the characters are influenced by setting. As the setting influences the events in the story, it is obvious that setting influence characters to behave in a way that is related to a particular place. A story cannot be a story without characters. The novel exists because of characters.

In a detective story, there are different types of characters, namely victims, suspects (murderers) and detectives. Emphasis will be placed on these types of characters in order to determine the extent to which the setting has influenced them in the two selected detective novels.

### 3.2.2.1 Victims

Thizwilondi and Nndanduleni Ratshali are victims in *Bono la mboni*. Thizwilondi leads a corrupt life. She is in love with many men of different nationalities i.e. Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson, Gilbert Tshirwa together with Eddie Williams, a great singer from America. Thizwilondi's lifestyle and her unfaithfulness suit the time and place where she grows up. It is her unfaithfulness that makes her the victim of circumstances.

Robert Fingo, in Mahamba (1989:55) says:

"Izwo kha a gume u tshila Thizwilondi, lawe kha li vhe lo tshaho li sa do kovhela. Ni ri mini vhanna ..." (*Thizwilondi's life must end, hers must be the one that rises and never sets. What do you say, guys ...*).

From this quotation, it becomes clear that Fingo, after finding out about Thizwilondi's love affair with Eddie Williams, plans with his friends to end Thizwilondi's life. Indeed, they kill her after the music festival held at Thohoyandou Stadium. One can say that Thizwilondi is the victim in this detective novel.

Lovers often go to the music festival to entertain themselves. They meet different people from different places. Yes, of course, in a place like a stadium, if there is a function, people do plan to do bad things to their enemies. Indeed, Thizwilondi, after the music festival was victimized by her boyfriends, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert

Tshirwa. The place where Thizwilondi's boyfriends plan to kill her is compatible with the setting of this detective story.

As a spoilt child, Thizwilondi starts to drink heavily. The situation in which Thizwilondi fiends herself influenced her life. No wonder after the music festival she passes via a bar lounge together with her boyfriends. As a modern girl she does what she likes. Most of the women who drink heavily and who also love different men often land in trouble.

At the music festival and in the bar lounge, people plan to do bad things to the people with whom they are at loggerheads. The place where Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa plan to kill Thizwilondi is suitable for planning evil doing.

The three friends, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa decide to end Thizwilondi's life during the night after the music festival. The time and the situation in which they find themselves in the festival influence them to kill Thizwilondi because they become upset when they see their girlfriend with Eddie Williams. She is killed during the night of heavy thunderstorm and lightning and left near Tshiseluselu Community Hall.

Thizwilondi's killers are not known. The detectives start with their investigation. Therefore, Thizwilondi's death contributes to the development of action in this detective story. She is killed because of her corrupt life. It is in this modern time where ladies lose their lives because of loose character.

Muofhe is the wife of the Honourable Judge Ndikandafhi or Thohoyandou. He has sentenced Julie's brother, Bhatuwani to serve a jail term in Vondwe Prison. Julie wants to have her brother released from jail. She and Jack plan to kidnap Muofhe, the wife of the famous judge of Thohoyandu. Nowadays, if people want to achieve their aims through you, they kidnap the person who is nearest to you or whom you love most. No

wonder Muofhe, when she is on the way to the optometrist, is kidnapped by Julie and Jack. Kidnapping is a common practice these days.

Mutshinyani, the wife of Ndifelani, a visitor from Johannesburg, is also kidnapped with Muofhe. She does not know the place where she is going. Anything could happen to her on the way. Visitors sometimes become victims. She is also kidnapped with Muofhe by Julie and Jack near Raluswielo Secondary School early in the morning when they are on their way to the optometrist at Makwarela Location. The situation surrounding Muofhe and Mutshinyani's kidnapping is suitable and compatible to the setting of this detective story because they are kidnapped far away from busy shops and roads, where people could not notice anything happening. The setting influences Julie and Jack to kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani because of the availability of roads and transport which Julie and Jack use to transport the victims.

Again in *Nwana wa mme anga*, while Julie and Jack are holding Muofhe and Mutshinyani hostage, they are not aware that Mukhakhisi and his gang are planning to capture them. However, Mukhakhisi and his gang intervene and capture Julie's parents together with Julie, Jack, Muofhe and Mutshinyani (1974:72) says:

A ho ngo tsha vha na zwinwe. Ho mbo di vha u kundwa tshothe ha Carole na Jack, Vho-Mafangambiti na Vho-Mususumeli vho mbo pfuluswa vha iswa ngei bakoni la thavhani ya Mangwele.

*(There was nothing else. Carole and Jack were totally defeated. Carole, Jack, Mafangambiti and Mususumeli were removed and hidden in the cave at Mangwele Mountain).*

The above extract means that Julie, Jack, Mafangambiti and his wife Mususumei, are captured by Mukhakhisi and his gang and hidden at Mangwele Mountain. This plan is not successful, as the police were following them.

All the actions of the victims and the culprits and their way of life do fit in with the place and the modern time in which the actions occur, because Mukhakhisi and his gang are familiar with Venda country. He knows how to climb mountains and he does not fear hiding in the caves. He commits crime with an intention to hide in the caves as he is familiar with them.

The victim in *Bono la mboni* is Thizwilondi, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped because Julie wants to have her twin brother Fhatuwani released from jail. Thizwilondi is killed during the night when there are thunderstorms and lightning in *Bono la mboni*, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped in broad daylight.

The killing of Thizwilondi in *Bono la mboni* and kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani in *Nwana wa mme anga* assist in the development of action in both detective novels and is compatible in the setting of both novels.

#### 3.2.2.2 Suspects

In the detective story, suspects are defined as those detailed explanation regarding suspects follows in chapter 4. In these two selected detective stories, the focus will be on the influence of setting on suspects in order to see whether setting influences them.

Robert Fingo is the suspect in *Bono la mboni* because he is suspected of killing Thizwilondi, committing the crime of murder. After Thizwilondi's murder, the police start with their investigation. Roberto Fingo attended Thizwilondi's funeral.



Mahamba (1989:23) has this to say:

Vhanna avho vha tshi khou ralo u amba nga ha Robert, vha tshi khou mu humbulela, na ene u khou humbula-vho. Tsho do tou mu dinaho ndi tsha u vho vhona nga murahu ha u amba ha mapholisa na Vho-Silidzhi, vha mulayo vha tshi vho mu tevhela nga murahu.

*(While those men were speaking about Roberto, suspecting him, he was also thinking. What really worried him most was when he saw the police following him after a talk with Mr Silidzhi).*

This means that the police suspect Roberto Fingo. The way he stands far away from other funeral mourners makes one suspect him. Furthermore he does not actively involve himself in the funeral service. That is why detective Muzila, Nedzamba and Silidzhi suspect him. The other reason is that before the death of Thizwilondi, he used to come to Silidzhi's family to pay visit to the latter. This suspicious which takes place in the graveyard during the funeral of Thizwilondi has a direct influence of the development of action in this detective story. Therefore Roberto Fingo's actions and the place where he stands during the funeral service made him a suspect in the killing of Thizwilondi. His actions fit in with the occurrence of the suspicious event. The situation during Thizwilondi's funeral service makes people and the detectives suspect Fingo for killing Thizwilondi. Fingo is arrested but later released as he is not found guilty.

Mahamba (189:21) also says:

Vhathu vha tshi khou balangana, ho do vhonala Vho-Silidzhi

vho ima na mapholisa mavhili, Vho-Muzila na Vho-Nedzamba, vhe vha vhonele vha tshi nga vho vha vha tshi khou amba mafhungo a sa dini zwone. Mapholisa vho do sala murahu ha inwe goloj ye mune wayo a si fune zwa u yela mudini wa ha Silidzhi naho khumbelo yo vha yo ralo. Goloj ye ya vha yo salwa murahu yo vha i ye mudini wa ha Silidzhi ya vha i songo hu dowela zwone.

*(When people were dispersing Silidzi was seen standing with two policemen, Muzila and Nedzamba, who appeared to be engaged in a serious conversation. The police followed a certain car whose owner did not like to go to Silidzi's homestead although requested to do so. The car that was being followed was the one that used to be seen at Silidzi's family).*

From this extract it is clear that the police suspect Fingo to be responsible for the death of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. After the funeral service, Fingo does not go to Silidzhi's family, although people are requested to do so. This encourages the detectives to follow him. Indeed, Fingo is arrested but later released as he is not found guilty.

Again, after Fingo has killed Nndanduleni Ratshali, he shouted loudly, calling the late Thizwilondi Silidzhi and disappeared into the bush. This enabled Richard to identify the voice of Roberto Fingo, as he long suspected him to have killed his mother.

Mahamba (1989:95) says:

Mupondwa a tshi khou tavha mukosi, Fingo a vha a tshi tavha

wawe-vho, a tshi ri, "Thizwilondo!" Fingo a ralo a tshi vho shavha, u shavha lwa u tou pwasha na mataka.

*(When the victim was crying, Fingo also started crying, saying, "Thizwilondi!" Fingo said this while running away, in a manner to destroy bushes).*

Fingo, in the above quotation, shouted loudly after killing Nndanduleni Ratshali accidentally. As he runs away, his loud voice, when he calls Thizwilondi, makes Thizwilondi's child, Richard, suspect him as he has been looking for him all along in order to kill him. Richard reports the incident to the police and the police follow Roberto Fingo to his house in Thohoyandou, where he is arrested.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the police suspect Julie after visiting her parents Mafangambiti and Mususumeli, in Messina. Unfortunately the police found Mukhakhisi and his gang in Mafangambiti's house in Messina. A fierce fight ensued between the police and the criminals. The fight between the two groups leads to the killing of detective Tshihadu. The place where this event takes place is in Messina location where Mafangambiti and his wife Mususumeli reside. In urban areas different kinds of criminal activities take place. Criminals use guns and knives, hence the criminal gang of Mukhakhisi. Guns are tools of modern times and they are normally used in urban areas. Therefore, the fierce fight where knives and guns are used suit the modern time and place of this detective novel. The death of detective Tshihadu delays the investigation. The detectives now get a useful clue to tract down the perpetrators because they are informed by Mafangambiti and Mususumeli where Julie is. They now know who the criminals are as they have seen Mukhakhisi and his gang. They found their suspect Mukhakhisi in Mafangambiti's house in Messina. Mukhakhisi and his gang recaptured the two women together with Julie and Jack. In this detective story, setting influences Julie and Jack's action because they

kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani, knowing where they will hide them. Indeed, they hide them in Mafangambiti's old house at Shayandima.

Mphaphuli (1974:58) says:

Magevhenga a dzhenisa Vho-Mafangambiti na mufumakadzi  
goloini. Nndu ya lodelwa nga nnda.

*(The criminals put Mafangambiti and his wife in the car. The  
house was locked from outside).*

In this quotation, Mukhakhisi and his gang capture Mafangambiti and his wife Mususumeli. They want them to help find Carole. The police are locked in the house of Mafangambiti and left behind by Mukhakhisi and his gang. Mukhakhisi and his gang recapture the two women together with their kidnapers and go to hide them at Mangwele Mountain.

The detective have now seen the criminals who are behind the kidnaping of the two women. The detection delayed because of the death of detective Tshihadu. This activities of the suspects align with the setting of this detective novel because they locked the detectives in the room and went by car to Mafangambiti's old house at Shayandima. Houses with locks and a car are modern things which people live in and travel with respectively.

The suspects hide themselves in the cave at Mangwele Mountain. They do not realise that the police are following them. A fierce fight ensues between the police and Mukhakhisi's gang. This lead to the death of Mukhakhisi and some of his members.

The place and time had a tremendous influence on the actions of the suspects in the selected detective novels. Fingo's actions in *Bono la mboni* are influenced by the place and time. Fingo is a foreigner. He might have acquired skills of killing people in foreign countries. He is now staying in Venda where weather changes every hour due to the topography of the country. Fingo and his friend kill Thizwilondi mysteriously at night. They were able to do this because of darkness, thunderstorm and lightning. Weather makes it easy for them to carry on their criminal activities. Darkness protects them from being seen by people. The thunderstorm makes it difficult for them to be heard by people. Therefore, topographical features play an important role in the development of action in this detective novel.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Fhatuwani's actions help in the development of the action of this detective novel. Fhatuwani is brought up in a well-to-do family where he gets all he wants. This causes him to abandon his parents and join criminal gangs. Fhatuwani and his friends are arrested after robbing First National Bank in Thohoyandou and kept in Vondwe prison. This helps in the development of the action because Julie struggles to release him by threatening the police. While the police are investigating, the development of action in this detective story takes place.

The suspects, Carole and Jack, contribute to the development of the action because they kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani and hide them in Mafangambiti's old house in Shayandima. The police investigate this crime while looking for Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Time and place therefore play an important role in the development of action in this detective novel.

### 3.2.2.3 Detectives and investigation

Detectives are persons who investigate the crime committed in order to find the criminals. Krushnamurthy (1994:254) defines a detective as "someone whose job is to discover

what has happened in a crime or other situation and to find the people involved”.

Indeed, the detectives’ task is to investigate the crime in order to find the people involved. More detailed explanation of detectives will be given in Chapter 4. Here, we shall concentrate on the influence of setting in the detectives’ investigation.

The detectives investigating the crime of Thizwilondi’s murder in Bono la mboni are Muzila, Nedzamba and Masutha. These detectives are trained in the field of investigating crime, and are able to investigate a crime scientifically, using their knowledge of detection and gathering information from people. This is seen after the death of Thizwilondi, when detectives Muzila and Nedzamba contact the deceased’s parents and close friends. From Thizwilondi’s sister Ntshengedzeni and her parents, the detectives obtain a useful clue.

Mahamba (1989:16) maintains that:

Tshedzanyana tsho bva na Vho-Nedzamba vhe vha bvisa muhumbulo wa uri khonani dza mufu dzi vhe dzone dzi thomaho u sedzuluswa. Dzi re khonani dza musadzi-wa-vhane dzone, vha nga dzi divha fhedzi nga u tou kwama vhabebi vha mufu.

*(Detective Nedzamba brought a little light when he suggested that the deceased’s friends must first be investigated. The friends of the deceased will only be known by contacting her parents).*

Detective Nedzamba’s suggestion proves to be professional. Indeed, detective

Nedzamba and Masutha do track down the perpetrators. They visit the deceased's parents and close friends together with Thizwilondi's younger sister Ntshengedzeni to obtain information about Thizwilondi's death. Contacting the deceased's close friends in order to find out the evil doer(s) is common practice for detectives. This activity is of modern time and it aligns with the setting of this detective novel.

At the funeral service of Thizwilondi, detective Nedzamba and Muzila suspect Roberto Fingo to be responsible for the death of Thizwilondi. The detectives escort Roberto Fingo to the police station.

Mahamba in (1989:22) has this to say:

Fhungo le vhuraru ha vhanna avha vha fhedza ngalo lo vha la uri Roberto a tuwe na mapholisa tshititshini. Zwo ralo, goloi mbili dza mbo tuwa dzo salana murahu, murahu ho sala ya vhoramilayo.

*(The three men concluded that Roberto must go with the police to the police station. However, the two cards followed one another and behind was the car of the lawyers).*

Roberto is escorted to the police station by the detectives. It is in this modern setting where one finds police escorting the criminals by means of cars. For this reason, setting in *Bono la mboni* plays a major role to the actions of the detectives.

When detective Muzila asks Nedzamba how he feels about Roberto Fingo in Mahamba (1989:22-23), Nedzamba says:

"Nne hoyu munna ndi vhona uri u na mulandu, mafhungo haya u a a talusa. Ndo vhona kuitele kwawe musi ri tshi reshana nae".

*("I think this man is guilty, he knows this matter. I saw his actions when we greeted him").*

In this extract, detective Nedzamba suspects Roberto of murdering Thizwilondi. The detective also shares views and ideas about the perpetrators in order to make the right decision on the matter. Discussions and negotiations to solve the problem pertaining to crime and related issues are done in modern times, unlike in the past where detectives used to arrest people whom they suspect regardless of whether they committed a crime or not. Therefore, setting in this detective novel has a tremendous influence on the actions and way of life of the detectives.

Mahamba (1989:65) says:

Vhanna avho vhuraru havho, vho farwa nga la u tou humulela. Nga murahu ha musi Roberto o farwa, mihumbulo ya Vho-Sedzheni Muzila yo shuma i songo shuma. Ndi henefho he munna uyu, a vho elelwa maledere e a vha o nwalwa kha gwangwa la mulilo le la dobiwa henengei he tshitumbu tsha wanala hone. Kha gwangwa lenelo, ho vha ho nwalwa maledere R T G nga madanzi. Zwino Vho Muzila vho ri vha tshi lavhelesa mafhungo othe ayo, nga maanda vho no wana na vhutanzi ha uri Thizwilondi a tshi tuwa hayani o vha e na Roberto na vhanwe vhanna vhavhili, munna avho vha mbo di fara Gilbert na Thomas. Thomas Everson ene, Vho Muzila vho



do ri vha tshi vho vhona na tshanda tshawe tshe tsha vha tshi  
tshee tsho pombiwa, vha mbo di pfa vho no tou takala, u takala  
munna avho vha tshi hu itiswa nge vha vhambedza fuvhalo ilo  
la mulilo na mulilo we mufu a wana o fhiswa ngawo.

*(Those three men were arrested because they were suspected. After Roberto was arrested, Sergeant Muzila gave this issue serious thought. He realised the letters that were written on the box of matches that were picked up where the corpse was found. On that box were the letters R T G in capital letters. When Muzila saw this, especially after getting evidence that Thizwilondi was with Roberto and other two men when she disappeared, he arrests Gilbert and Thomas. When Muzila sees Thomas Everson's bandaged hand, he started to feel happy because he compared the wound of the fire and the fire that burnt the deceased).*

The above extract shows detective Muzila to be an intelligent man who carefully examines every bit of available information in his quest to track down the perpetrators. He arrests Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert because he suspects them for having killed Thizwilondi. During his search, he discovers two things that are identical and compares them in order to get true evidence of the case. In modern times criminals carry out their criminal activities in a very complicated manner. In order to counter this, detectives also have to come up with very sophisticated techniques of investigation such as what Nedzamba and Muzila have done.

The investigation becomes complicated as the criminals bribe the witnesses.

Thizwilondi's mother, Eveline and John Makumbe together with procurator Dick Marvin. As a result, the detectives fail to detect the crime due to the bribe. In this modern times, criminals use money to bribe witnesses so that they may be rescued from the trial. In this detective novel, Thizwilondi's son, Richard, helps the detectives to arrest the criminals after Fingo has accidentally killed Nndanduleni Ratshali. Richard reports the case of the death of his uncle to the police. The police do not delay the investigation, they act quickly and go to Roberto Fingo's house, as Richard suspects him.

The investigation and the procedures taken by the detectives to track down the criminals are of a modern time because they use contact method, negotiations, and quickly act on an investigation when the case is reported. In olden times, the detectives took a long to start investigating the case after it was reported. Therefore, setting in this detective novel influenced the detectives to track down the criminals in a more systematic and modern way even though they fail in their detection.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives are Ndikandafhi, the station commander of Thohoyandou. Tshihadu and Tshimangadzo Mavhone. They investigate the kidnapping of the two women, Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Detectives Tshihadu and Tshimangadzo Mavhone are detectives who know their job. They are not easily convinced by the criminals to release Julie's brother Fhatuwani from jail. They want to investigate the case first rather than quickly giving in to criminals' demands.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, detective Tshibuleni, after receiving a telephone call from the criminals, says:

"Tsha u thoma ndi khou humbula uri pholisa Tshimangadzo Mavhone a ye hangei dzhele ya Vondwe. Vho-Mavhone vha na mpho ya u tumbula zwithu. Vha fanela u sengulusa

zwivhotshwa izwo zwina. Thanwe muthihi khavho a nga bva na vhumanzi vhune ha nga ri lumba kha vhane vha khou lingedza u vha rengulula. Rine-vho ngeno a ri nga sali ro dzula. Ndi kou todou tangana na nedorobo, muphurisidende na dziminista dzothe uri ri dzulele dandetande heli”, Ndi Vho Tshibuleni (Mphaphuli, 1974:17-18).

*(Firstly, I suggest that Tshimangadzo Mavhone goes to Vondwe prison. Mavhone has the skill of discovering things. He must investigate the four prisoners. Maybe one of them will come up with a clue which will help us find the people who are trying to have the prisoners released. We will also not relax. I want to meet the mayor of this town, the president and all the ministers to discuss this matter, says Tshibuleni).*

This extract proves that the detectives in this detective novel are not easily cornered, they want to investigate the perpetrators first. After receiving a telephone call, detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone goes to Vondwe prison to interrogate the four prisoners. He discovers the F H S abbreviation on Alphonso Fhambanani's necklace. The abbreviations help on the development of action in this detective novel as these abbreviations give them courage for further investigation. Detectives Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu are modern because they know how to read and interpret the abbreviations. As detectives of modern times they are used to traveling by car while gathering information that will be used to identify the criminals. The school which they visited to investigate if Fhatuwani has ever been a student there is also of modern times because it has a gate, staff office and a soccer playground. They obtain full information about Alphonso Fhambanani. After that, they pay a visit to Fhatuwani's parents, Mafangambiti and Mususumeli, in Messina to gather more information. The detectives

meet Mukhakhisi's gang. Unfortunately, detective Tshihadu is killed by Frelimo. The intervention of Mukhakhisi and his gang complicates the investigation. Later on, the detectives follow Mukhakhisi's gang at Mangwele Mountain where a fierce fight ensues. Ganyani Makumbelo, Casanova Madzungunye, Faraday Mukhakhisi lose their lives. Frelimo, Julie and Jack are arrested and locked up in jail.

The detection and procedures followed in gathering the information from the people is of modern time because cars are used. Their investigation is logical and systematic because they follow step by step in their investigation. They even collect evidence from people and analyse it systematically. This proves that detectives Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu are trained for this job. They have good skills in investigating crime.

Detectives Muzila and Masutha investigate Thizwilondi's murder case in *Bono la mboni*, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives investigate the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani.

In both detective stories, the detectives follow several steps to detect the crime. Detectives Muzila and Musutha use the box of matches with R T G abbreviations to track down the criminals in *Bono la mboni* whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga* detectives Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu use F H S abbreviations on Alphonso Fhambanani's and Julie's parents in Messina.

The detectives in *Bono la mboni* first fail to investigate the case of the death of Thizwilondi due to conflicting evidence caused by bribery. Richard, Thizwilondi's son, helps the detectives to arrest the perpetrators. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives never fail in their detection of crime. Detective Tshihadu lost his life in *Nwana wa mme anga*. No detective is killed in *Bono la mboni*.

The detection of crime in both two selected detective stories if of modern time as the detectives use cars to gather information or evidence from different places. They even use logical thought in analysing those evidence. In *Bono la mboni* there are a few flaws. The detection of the crime is delayed. It starts in the middle of the story. The detective first fail to identify the suspects but an ordinary person, Richard, helps them to arrest the suspects. All in all, the setting of these detective novels influenced the lives of the detectives and their way of investigating crime.

### 3.2.3 Setting and tools

A tool is an object or instrument which a person uses to do his or her job. In other words, a tool refers to any object or instrument which criminals and detectives (police) use. It can either be a knife or a gun.

The World Book Encyclopedia Volume 19 (1982:257) defines a tool as:

“An instrument that a worker uses to work”.

This means that instruments such as knives, guns, poison, means of transport, telephones are referred to as tools. These tools are used for different purposes. Some of these tools can cause harm to the body of a person.

In *Bono la mboni*, we find that Thizwilondi is killed by a number of things.

Mahamba (1989:15) has this to say:

Thizwilondi Silidzhi o fa nga zwithu zwi na mbalo, hone  
tshihulwanesa khazwo ndi u slilingwa. Nanga i tshi sedzulusa

ya wana uri muvhilini wa mufu ho vha ho andesa gesehambe, zwi sumbaho uri mufu o vha o fa na nga u thivhiwa dziningo, o fa nga tshipfundamuya. Muvhili wo fhiswaho, u ya nga ha dokotela, uho ho vha vhutudzi ha musu muthu o no vha tshitumbu.

*(Thizwilondi Silidzhi was killed by a number of things, but the greatest of them all is that of nauseous. In his investigation, the doctor found that in the body of the deceased there was a lot of carbon dioxide. This indicates that the deceased was suffocated, and died of carbon dioxide, according to the doctor, the body was burnt after she was killed).*

From this extract, we can deduce that the criminals strangled and burnt her. They used their hands to strangle her. Hands which are organs of the body of a human being are used as weapons. These actions of the criminals are modernised. It is during this time where criminals use hands, knives and guns to threaten women before they rape them. The criminals use these tools because they are available during this modern time.

The suspects, Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa use a car to travel from home to Silidzhi's family before and after Thizwilondi's death. They use that car to carry out their criminals activities. A car is modern tool which people use to travel from one place to another. Criminals also use cars to rob people and to hijack them. The suspects in this detective novel are influenced by setting to use a car while they are acting criminally. This is because the car is the quickest means of transport that criminals travel with rather than travelling by foot.

Robert Fingo also uses a modern tool, a gun, when he accidentally kills Richard's uncle,

Nndanduleni Ratshali, instead of killing his foe, Richard.

Mahamba (1989:95) says:

Ndivhoni ya hoyu munna, fhungo ndi la uri musi ula wa bono  
la hodelani, o tuturuswa nga tshigidi, zwino na ene u fanela u  
shumisa tshone.

*(In the opinion of this man, the issue is that, that day of the  
catastrophe at the hotel, he was awakened by a gun, now he  
must also use it).*

In this extract, we learn that Fingo wants to kill Richard by means of a gun and indeed he uses it. Unfortunately, he kills Nndanduleni Ratshali instead of killing Richard. Guns are weapons of modern times which criminals use to kill people. As these dangerous tools are abundant in this modern time, it stands to reason that criminals can use them to attack people for their own benefit. Setting in this detective novel has influenced Roberto Fingo to use a gun in killing Nndanduleni Ratshali because he hides in the bush near the stop sign at the Tshiulungoma crossroads.

The detectives, sergeants Muzila and Nedzamba, use guns when they arrest Roberto Fingo after killing Nndanduleni Ratshali. This is revealed by Mahamba (1989:96) when he says:

U farwa ha Roberto a ho ngo dina, ngauri ene a tshi sala a tshi  
swika fuletheni, of wana o lindelwa. Naho hu uriene ho ngo  
vhona muthu, hone o do ri a tshi khou honolola vothi, a pfa ipfi  
li tshi amba nae murahu hawe, khathihi na tshithu tsho mu

dzulaho kha mutana.

*(Fingo's arrest was simple, because when he reached his flat, police were waiting for him. Although he did not see anybody, when he was unlocking the door, he heard a voice speaking behind him, and the gun resting on his back).*

The object resting on Fingo's back is a gun. Police use guns while they are on duty. In the past, police used batons. Guns are of modern times.

Again Mahamba (1989:96 further says:

Vho-Muzila na Vho-Nedzamba vho do vhofha Roberto zwanda nga tsimbi, vha konou dzhena nduni na mune wayo. U dzhena ha vhanna avho hone, ho vha u nanisa mafhungo u vhfifa kha Roberto, musi nthu ha mmete mapholisa vho do wana tshinwe tshigidi tsha tsha vha tshi tshee tshiswa.

*(Muzila and Nedzamba handcuffed Roberto, then they entered the house with the owner. On entering, they found a new gun on the bed, which made things worse for Roberto).*

From this extract, the police use handcuffs when arresting Roberto Fingo. They also found a new gun on the suspect's bed. Handcuffs and guns are modern tools.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, a Mazda car with a canopy without windows is used to kidnap the two women, Muofhe and Mutshinyani.

Mphaphuli (1974:8) says:



Maza ya dennde li si na mafasitere ya mbo di ima nga tsini navho. Carole a mbo di vha sumba nga tshigidi tsha vhukuma; hezwila zwituku zwa vhafumakadzi. Tshanda tsho faraho tshigidi tsho vha tshi songo bva nda ha bege. O tou atamisa mulomo wayo uri vha kone u tshi vhona zwavhudi.

*(A Mazda with a canopy without windows stopped next to them. Carole pointed them with a small authentic ladies' gun. The hand holding a gun was inside the bag. She opened the bag so that they could see the gun clearly).*

From the above extract, the suspect, Carole, used a Mazda car and a gun when she kidnapped Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Cars and guns are modern time tools used by criminals to carry out their criminal activities. The criminals or suspects in this detective novel are influenced by the setting to use these tools because they are modern tools that are mostly used by people in their daily life.

When Jack demanded that the police should release Julie's brother, Fhatuwani, from jail, he uses a telephone to communicate his demand. The modern criminals use telephones to threaten their people. This is revealed by the dialogue between Jack and Ndikandafhi the Honourable judge of Thohoyandou in Mphaphuli (1974:15):

Ipfi: "Vhathomphei, ndi vhone?"

Vhathomphei: "Ee, ndi nne".

"Vha a elelwa vhala vhathannga vho farwaho nga 1876 nge vha pwasha bannga?". Ndi ipfi li vhudzisaho.

Vho-Ndikandafhi: "Ndi a vha elelwa vhukuma.

Ipfi: Ri khou vha toda vhe nnda”.

Vho-Ndikandafhi: “Nga lifhio na?”.

Ipfi: “Ndi zwa u rengululana”.

Vhathomphei: “Hu rengulana nnyi na nnyi?”.

Ipfi: “Zwenezwila zwigevhanga zwina zwi re Vondwe zwi tshi rengulula vhafumakadzi vhavhili.

*(Voice: “Honourable, is that you”*

*Honourable: “Yes, it’s me”.*

*“Do you remember those young men who were arrested in 1976 for bank robbery?”.*

*That is the voice that is asking.*

*Ndikandafhi: “I remember them very well”*

*Voice: “They must be released”.*

*Ndikandafhi: “On what grounds?”.*

*Voice: “That is for an exchange”*

*Honourable: “Exchange for what”.*

*Voice: “Those four criminals who are in Vondwe Prison in exchange for the two women).*

In the above dialogue, Jack is speaking with the Honourable judge of Thohoyandou by means of a telephone. A telephone is one of the modern tools which criminals use to communicate with their opponent by threatening them. As the setting of this detective novel is of modern time, time influences Jack to use the telephone when he phones the great Judge of Thohoyandou, Ndikandafhi, when he ordered him to release the four prisoners from Vondwe prison. Telephones are the quick means of communication used in this modern time.

A dangerous tool is also used at Mafangambiti's house in Messina where Frelimo kills detective Tshihadu with a stilleto knife. Again at Mangwele Mountain, a fierce fight between the police and Mukhakhisi's gang ensued. Guns are used by both the suspects and the detectives. A number of criminals, Ganyani Makumbelo, Casanova Madzungunye and Faraday Mukhakhisi are killed by the police while Julie, Jack and Frelimo are arrested.

The tools that are used in both detective stories are of a modern time and they fit to be used during this time. The knives, guns, means of transport, telephones are mostly used during this modern time by the criminals.

In *Bono la mboni*, the three suspects use hands and fire to kill Thizwilondi whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Frelimo uses a knife to kill detective Tshihadu in Mafangambiti's house in Messina.

In Both detective stories, cars are used by the criminals to carry out their criminal activities. Roberto Fingo and his friends use a car with tinted windows in *Bono la Mboni* whereas Carole and Jack use a Mazda car with a canopy without windows.

Guns are also used in both selected detective stories by both the criminals and the detectives. In *Bono la mboni*, Roberto Fingo uses a gun to kill Nndanduleni Ratshali whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, Carole uses a gun to kidnap Muofhe and Ndikandafhi. The detectives, Muzila and Nedzamba use a gun when they arrest Robeto Fingo for the death of Nndanduleni Ratshali in *Bono la Mboni*. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the detectives use guns to kill the criminals at Mangwele Mountain.

Telephone as a means of communication is used by Jack when speaking to the station commander at Thohoyandou police station in *Nwana wa mme anga*. No telephone is

used in *Bono la mboni*.

All in all, the tools that are used in both selected detective novels suit the time during which the events in these detective novels take place.

### 3.3 RÉSUMÉ

The setting of both *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga* is Venda, in Hatshivhasa and the surrounding areas. Setting in *Nwana wa mme anga* extends as far as Messina Township. The time during which the events take place in both detective stories is modern time because we find crimes of murdering and kidnapping people. The criminals use modern weapons like knives and guns to kill people.

In both selected novels, i.e. *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga*, setting had a tremendous influence on the actions of the characters and tools authors used in the development of action. The detectives' methods of investigation, the victim's life styles, and the criminal's activities (actions) suit the place and time in which the events take place. One can say that the setting in both selected novels has been well integrated with plot and characters.

The following chapter analysis the depiction of characters in the two selected detective novels.

## CHAPTER 4

### 4 CHARACTERISATION

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Characterisation is the device through which an author portrays the qualities of fictional people in a literary work. A character's behaviour reveals what he or she is. Readers come to know a character through his or her relation with other characters in a literary work.

Mashi (1994:115) has this to say:

Characterisation embraces the manner in which the author creates relationships among the various characters in his work and the purpose for which they were created.

Characters are the principal materials from which a plot is created. Incidents develop mainly through the speech and behaviour of dramatic characters. Therefore a story is not a story without characters. Characters in a work of fiction influence events. The Reader's Digest Southern African Word Power Dictionary (1996:164) defines character as "a person in a novel or play".

Characters play an important role in a narrative because they are responsible for the execution of the story. They create difficulties and sometimes resolve them at the end of the narrative. Through dialogue with others, their actions and, lifestyle we can understand a character better. A character plays an important role in the development of a plot and theme of a narrative. Characters make up the central interest of many dramas and novels. A writer knows his or her characters thoroughly. He or she has to have a clear picture of each one's look, speech and thought.

Meij and Snyman (1986:11) have this to say concerning characterisation:

Die mens in 'n verhaal is 'n belangrike komponent van die verhaal. Gewoonlik is dit een mens (of meer) wat aan die ander mens (of mense) vertel wat 'n derde mens (of groep mense) doen of wat met hulle gebeur. Natuurlik is daar verhale wat handel oor diere en dinge, selfs feë en kabouters. Hierdie verhaal onderwerpe het egter altyd menslike eienskappe.

This extract reveals character as an important component of the story. In other stories, animals are used as characters. This implies that characters may be persons or animals in the story. The actions of a character reveal what he or she is.

Characters are distinguished according to the type of narrative. In social or historical narratives, we distinguish characters as follows: the protagonist, antagonist and tritagonist. In a detective story, characters are grouped in the following manner: victims, murderers, suspects and finally the detectives. Most of the detectives in a detective story are protagonists, murders are antagonist and victims are tritagonists.

Aristotle as cited by Sayers in Winks (1980:33) points out the qualities of characters in the detective story as follows:

- (i) ... they must be good: even the most wicked of them must be endowed with some human dignity for us to take them seriously.
- (ii) ... they must be appropriate, a female must not be represented as being clever.

- (iii) ... they must be like reality: their mode of dress, language and behaviour should not be over0exaggerated but should be those of normal people that we interact with in daily life.
  
- (iv) ... they must be consistent from first to last: the development of a character should not bring about drastic changes. He should remain the person we have always known from the beginning to the end.

This implies that characters in a detective story must have human dignity, be true to their nature, their speeches and behaviour must resemble those we come across in daily life. A character must not change from the beginning to the end of the story. Characters in a detective story should be characters with personalities and traits that readers can analyse and consider.

Hereunder follows a discussion of the victims, suspects (criminals/murderers and detectives in a detective story.

## **4.2 CHARACTERISATION IN THE SELECTED NOVELS**

The discussion will be entered on the depiction of the different types of characters in the two selected detective novels. A comparison of the different types of characters will also be made.

### **4.2.1 The Victims**

Victims are characters in a detective story who are killed, raped and/or kidnapped. The Lexicon Junior Dictionary for Southern Africa (1985:514) defines a victim as "someone who suffers harm or injury".

From this extract one deduces that any person or character who is injured or harmed in a detective story is a victim. In line with the above extract, the Reader's Digest Southern African Word Power Dictionary (1996:1278) has this:

"a victim is someone or something that suffers harm, death etc".

The quotation differs slightly from what the Lexicon Dictionary says about the victim. The Readers Digest Dictionary includes person and something in its definition, while the Lexicon Dictionary does not. Something could either be an animal or any organism. If someone or something suffers harm or death in a narrative, especially in a detective story it is called a victim.

Auden, as cited in Winks (1980:19) has this to say regarding the victim:

The victim has to try to satisfy two contradictory requirements.

He has to involve everyone in suspicion, which requires that he be a bad character; and he has to make everyone feel guilty, which requires that he be a good character.

This means that a victim must be a person who makes other people feel pity for him or her because of the circumstances which he or she is facing.

The above description suits Thizwilondi's character in *Bono la mboni*. She is the victim in this detective story. She leads a corrupt life. Looking back to her early life, she is brought up in a delinquent way. She is spoiled by her mother Eveline Silidzhi. Worse still, she fell in love with different men from different backgrounds and cultures. This is what makes her a victim of circumstances. This is revealed by Mahamba (1989:53) when he says:



Ha Thizwilondi vhutshilo ndi vhunwe. Ndi musadzi tshisidzana Thizwilondi; na u divha uri u na nwana, Thizwilondi ha zwi divhi. Dzihodelani hu tolou pfi o wanala e na munna wa mukene; vhanna vha hone hu tshi ambiwa vhathu vha madzina, vhane muthu a nga a sa ri vhaambi vha khou sokou diambela-vho. Ndi zwa vhukuma; vha Thizwilondi vhanna a vha fheli; vharema, makuwa na maasia zwi sokou fana.

*(Thizwilondi's life is strange. She is a girl who is always found in hotels with different married men; respected men whom a person cannot suspect. This is true, Thizwilondi's boyfriends are of different nationalities, some being blacks, white and others are Asians).*

This reveals Thizwilondi's loose character. She does not keep one man. One can conclude that she displays traits of being a bad person. Her unfaithfulness is revealed when she falls in love with Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa at the same time. After these three men discover Thizwilondi's unfaithfulness, they decide to end her life once and for all. Indeed they kill her after the music festival held at Thohoyandou Stadium. Through the death of Thizwilondi, the author wants to warn people against being unfaithful. Her bad traits make her to be killed by her boyfriends. After her death, detection starts.

Thizwilondi is depicted as a beautiful girl who is liked by everyone. This is revealed in Mahamba (1989:35 after her birth:

Nwana wa hone ho ngo naka zwone. Tsho mu nakisaho ndi lukanda lutshena lwa khotsi awe, na mato mahulu a mme awe. Nga nnda ha izwo, a zwi ho zwinwe zwo mu nakisaho nga nnda ha u tou ri ndevhe dzawe dzo vha dzi songo dzhia zwickwangwa zwa thohoni.

*(This child is very beautiful. What makes her beautiful is being light-skinned like her father, and her big eyes which look like her mother's. Beside that, there is nothing else that makes her beautiful except to say that her ears do not resemble her small head shells).*

One can say that Thizwilondi's beauty attracts people from all walks of life. While she was at school, teachers were very fond of her. Men like Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson, Gilbert Tshirwa and the American singer, Eddie Williams, are attracted by her beauty. During the music festival held at Thohoyandou Stadium, Eddie Williams in Mahamba (1989:3) says:

"Ndi a ni funa nwananyana"

*(I love you girl).*

This extract reveals Eddie Williams proposing love to Thizwilondi. Indeed, he is attracted by her beauty. She falls in love with Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa simultaneously. These three friends do not know that they are all Thizwilondi's boyfriends. After realizing that Thizwilondi is in love with Eddie Williams during the music festival, the secret is revealed. The three friends decide to end Thizwilondi's life and indeed they killed her due to her unfaithfulness. For this reason, Thizwilondi is the victim

in *Bono la mboni*. People appreciate her beauty but on the other hand they scorn her for her loose morals.

Nndanduleni Ratshali is accidentally killed by Roberto Fingo while hunting for Richard in this detective story. He is depicted as a victim of the situation. This is the way that the author wants to reveal the perpetrators. However, the main victim is Thizwilondi as her death contributes to the development of plot and theme. Thizwilondi's character contributes to the development of this detective story because the story is centered around her life and death.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani Ndifelani are victims. These two women are kidnapped by Julie and Jack while they are on their way to the optometrist at Makwarela Loction. Muofhe is the wife of Ndikandafhi the honourable judge of Thohoyandou and Mutshinyani is the wife of Ndifelani a visitor from Johannesburg. Julie and Jack kidnapped Muofhe and Mutshinyani with an intention to threaten the honourable judge of Thohoyandou to release the four prisoners.

Mphaphuli (1974:3-4) has this to say:

Mufumakadzi wa Muhulisei vho vha vhe Vho-Muofhe Ndikandafhi. Vho-Muofhe vho vha vha tshi dinwa nga mato. O vha a tshi tata u tshena ha bammbiri musu vha tshi vhala. Zwino vhunga vho vha vhe mudedekadzi o vha a tshi vha thithisa kha mushumo wavho. Fhezi kha maduvha enea ane mafhungo aya a khou nwalwa ngao, vho no vha khwine vhukuma. Mishonga i bvaho ngei kiliniki i re Makwarela yo vha i khou sumba u zwi kona. Nga heli duvha (Lavhutanu) ri vha vhona vha tshi khou onesana na mukalaha wavho. Vha

khou ya u fara thekhisi uri vha ye henengei Makwarela.

*(The wife of the honourable judge Ndikandafhi was Muofhe Ndikandafhi. Muofhe has a problem with her eyes. Her eyes were not adaptable to the reflection of white paper when she reads. As she was a lady teacher, her eyes disturbed her in executing school work. During the narration of this story she seemed to be much better. The medicine that she got from Makwarela Clinic seems to be helpful. On that Friday, she bids farewell to her husband and boards a taxi to Makwarela).*

Muofhe Ndikandafhi is going to see the optometrist at Makwarela Location. On the way she meets Mutshinyani who has a similar problem. They go together to Makwarela Clinic. They are kidnapped near Raluswielo Secondary School. Julie and Jack hide them at Mafangambiti's house in Shayandima. They disappear for a long period without knowing where they are. That is why we regard Muofhe and Mutshinyani as victims in this detective story. Their kidnapping contributes to the development of the plot and theme. The whole story revolves around the detection of Muofhe and Mutshinyani.

Mafangambiti and his wife Mususumeli are also victims, as they are captured by Mukhakhisi. Mukhakhisi and his gang go to Mafangambiti's home in Messina so that he could show them his old house.

Mphaphuli (1974:58) says:

Magevhenga a dzhenisa Vho-Mafangambiti na mufumakadzi goloini. Ndu ya lodelwa nga nda ... Magevhenga a khou do ita uri Vho-Mafangambiti vha sumbe hune Carole a vha hone.

Ndi uri nduni ya mukalaha ya Shayandima. Hune Carole a vha hone ndi hune mufumakadzi wa Vho-Ndikandifhi na ula munwe wa mueni vha vha hone.

*(The criminals then got Mafangambiti and his wife into the car. They locked the house, ... The criminals wanted Mafangambiti to point where Carole is. That means the house of the old man in Shayandima. Where Carole is, is where Ndikandifhi's wife and the visitor are).*

Here, Mafangambiti and his wife are captured by Mukhakhisi and his gang. Mukhakhisi wants to capture Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani together with their kidnappers so that they could demand R50 000 from the government. Indeed, they capture the two women together with Julie and Jack, and hide them in the cave at Mangwele mountain. The disappearance of Muofhe and Mutshinyani creates a big problem for the police and their husbands. Their disappearance contributes to the development of action in this detective story as the detectives start to track down the perpetrators.

The victim in *Bono la mboni* is a young girl, Thizwilondi, whereas in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the victims are married women Muofhe and Mutshinyani. Muofhe is the wife of the honourable judge of Thohoyandou Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani is the wife of Ndifelani, a visitor from Johannesburg. Thizwilondi is victimised because she does not lead a good life whereas Muofhe and Mutshinyani are victimised because Julie wants to have her twin brother Fhatuwani released from jail.

The victim in *Bono la mboni* lives with her parents. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are married women living with their husbands. Nndanduleni Ratshali in *Bono la mboni* is accidentally killed. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Mutshinyani is also kidnapped

with Muofhe by Julie and Jack. In *Bono la mboni*, the victim, Thizwilondi, is killed by her boyfriends whereas Muofhe and Mutshinyani are not killed in *Nwana wa mme anga*. They are just captured and later freed by the police.

#### 4.2.2 The suspects (criminals, murderers)

The suspects in a detective story are characters whom the police or detectives assume that they are responsible for crime. However, police still do not have solid proof that such people have indeed committed the crime that is being investigated. It may be a crime of murder, kidnapping, rape, house breaking and the like.

Cawelti (1976:92) maintains that:

The goal of the detective story is a clear and certain establishment of guilt for a specific crime. ... it is possible for a detective story writer to create a complex and interesting criminal but there must never be any serious question about either the specific guilt or the evil motives of these characters. In short, their motives may be complex and their actions interesting, but they must always be definable as bad.

This means that in a detective story we find a detective who investigates a crime in order to expose the perpetrators who are responsible for the crime. In *Bono la mboni*, Roberto Fingo is a suspect, suspected by the detectives of being involved in the mysterious death of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. Together with Thomas Everson, and Gilbert Tshirwa, he is in love with Thizwilondi Silidzhi.

Robert Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are murderers in *Bono la mboni*. They are all Thizwilondi's boyfriends. They killed Thizwilondi because of her

unfaithfulness. They are portrayed as a group of characters who are friends and who do not diverge from what they have intended to do. As human beings, they become jealous when they see another man with their girlfriends.

U dowelana ha Thizwilondi na Williams, ho vha honoho ha vho seisanaho, vha dahisanaho fola. Hu hone u dowelana hawe na munna uyo lwa divha, zwo tangana zwa ritha mbilu ya Roberto Fingo. Roberto ene a tshi dinalea, o ralo nga hone, ngauri khae a hu na munwe a funanaho na Thizwilondi nga nnda ha ene. (Mahamba 1989:55).

*(The relationship between Thizwilondi and Williams is that of lovers, those who have sexual intercourse. Her one day relationship with that man suddenly hurts Roberto Fingo. Roberto was angry because he thought that there is nobody else who is in love with Thizwilondi except himself).*

The above extract shows that Roberto Fingo is angry after knowing about Thizwilondi's love affairs with Eddie Williams. He is jealous of Eddie Williams.

After realizing that they are all (Everson, Tshirwa, Fingo) in love with Thizwilondi, they decide to end her life because she is also in love with Williams.

Roberto Fingo is portrayed as a cunning man. This is revealed during the funeral service of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. He is suspect number one in his group. His cunning is disclosed in the dialogue between detective Nedzamba and Muzila in Mahamba (1989:23) when Muzila says:

Hei, mafhungo haya a konda nga maanda. Nne ndi tshi mu sedza a thi athu tou vhona zwavhudi tshi re tshone. U vhofholowa hawe musiri tshi amba nae vho hu vhona athiri? Ndi henefha hune nda dzhenwa nga u timatima”.

*(Hey, this matter is too difficult. When I look at him I cannot come up with the right answer (conclusion). Did you see how relax he was when we talk to him? That is what makes me doubtful).*

In this dialogue detective Muzila is doubtful in his suspicion. He does not find it easy to suspect Roberto Fingo of murdering Thizwilondi. This is because of Fingo's tactics of staying calm at the funeral of Thizwilondi. He is so relaxed, free and fearless when the detectives speak to him after the funeral service of Thizwilondi. This portrays Fingo as a cunning criminal. Though he appears to be cunning, he is arrested under suspicion because he is the last person who took the late from her home. Roberto Fingo's two friends are also arrested. They spend three months in jail before they are prosecuted. The court case is suspended due to lack of clear evidence. The suspects are finally acquitted.

Mahamba (1989:21) maintains that:

Vhathu vha tshi khou balangana, ho do vhonala Vho-Silidzhi vho ima na mapholisa mavhili, Vho-Muzila na Vho-Nedzamba, vhe vha vhonala vha tshi nga vho vha vha tshi khou amba mafhungo a sa dini zwone. Mapholisa vho do sala marahu ha inwe goloi ye mune wayo a si fune zwa u yela mudini wa ha Silidzhi naho khumbelo yo vha yo ralo.



*(When people were dispersing, Silidzhi was seen standing with two policemen, Muzila and Nedzamba and they appeared to be discussing a sensitive matter. The police followed a car whose owner did not want to go to Silidzhi's home, although people were requested to do so).*

It is clear from the above extract that detective Muzila and Nedzamba, together with Silidzhi (Thizwilondi's father), suspect Roberto Fingo of being involved in the killing of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. They escort him to the police station.

Mahamba (1989:24) further says:

Roberto Fingo o farwa; u farwa hawe hone ndi mafhungo a u tou humbulela; hu tshi humbulelwa uri sa izwi e ene we a fhedzisela u dzhia mufu hayani hawe, a nga vha e ene o itaho mafhungo of vhifhaho.

*(Roberto Fingo was arrested, his arrest is as result of being suspected of killing Thizwilondi because he was the last person to take the deceased from her home. Maybe he was responsible for that terrible death).*

Richard suspected Fingo to have killed his mother. He (Richard) hunts Fingo high and low in order to kill him.

After the suspects have been given bail, Roberto Fingo and his friends do not rest. They bribe the witnesses. The witnesses are visited during the night. This is revealed by

Mahamba (1989:68) when he says:

Maduvha a tevhelaho o do vha a bonyongo la musu Roberto Fingo na khonani dzawe vha songo tsha vha vho lindelaho duvha la mulandu fhedzi. Hu musu vhanwe vhathu vhe vha vha vhe na thanzi dza muvhuso vho ri vha edele vhusiku, hone u edela havho ho itwa nga vhaendavhusiku, vhe vha ri vha tshi enda, vha ralo vha tshi vusa vhothe vhe vha vha vhe dzithanzi, hu tshi lukwa mafhungo. Vhaiti vha mafhungo ayo vho zwi divha uri arali thanzi dza nga tou fhambana kha zwithu zwituku, axennde u do amba dzo oma henefho, izwo hu do vha u naka kana u vhifha ha mafhungo. Vhaiti vha zwithu izwi, vho ralo vha tshi shumisa tshelede, nahone vha sa i tshivhi.

*(The following days were busy days when Roberto Fingo and his friends were not only waiting the day of the trial. The state witnesses did not even sleep. This was caused by the night travellers who were visiting and waking up all those who were witnesses, trying to confuse the matter. These people knew that a slight difference in their evidence will be exploited by the lawyer, and this will cause the matter to become good or bad. These people do this by using money extravagantly).*

In the above extract, Fingo and his friends bribe and cheat the state witnesses during the night by using money. These tactics of modern times are used by criminals. Mahamba depicts Robert Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa as real criminals who are found in real situation.

Apart from this, Gilbert Tshirwa falls in love with Thizwilondi's younger sister Ntshengedzeni. This is done to bribe Ntshengedzeni and her parents not to give evidence against Gilbert. The three culprits appear to be succeeding in bribing the state witnesses in order to destroy evidence that may be used against them.

After killing Nndanduleni Ratshali, Robert Fingo proves himself to be a coward because of his shouting. This is revealed in Mahamba (1989:95) when he says:

Goloi i tshi fhungudza luvhilo, i tshi da nga qwituku tshitoponi,  
Fingo a vha a tshi latela nga mbili gulu nga henengei ho  
dzulaho ane a si khou reila. Mupondwa a tshi khou tavha  
mukosi, Fingo a vha a tshi tavha wawe-vho, a tshi ri,  
"Thizwilondi" Fingo a ralo a tshi vho shavha, u shavha lwa u  
tou pwasha na mataka.

*(When the car reduced speed, coming slowly to a stop, Fingo  
fired two bullets on the passenger seat. While the victim cried,  
Fingo also cried, saying "Tshizwilondi!" Fingo did this while he  
was running, running fast to the bushes).*

This proves that, though Fingo is a criminal, he is also a coward on the one side. He ran and cried after killing Ratshali. But on the other side Fingo proves to be a strong-minded individual. He defeats Richard when the latter tries to threaten him with an object at Venda Sun Hotel in the toilet. Richard suspects Fingo to be responsible for the death of Nndanduleni Ratshali by his voice. As a result, Fingo is arrested and revealed all the information which also leads to the arrest of his two friends Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. Their actions and way of life make the police suspect them.

Though the three criminals try by all means to complicate the evidence, they are finally arrested and never defeat the law. Fingo is sentenced to life imprisonment and Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are sentenced to serve 15 years in jail.

Robert Fingo in this detective novel is portrayed as a leader of the group. He plays an important role in criminal activity. Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are followers. Though the main line of the story is attached to Robert Fingo, all of them act as a group of criminals and murderers.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Mafangambiti's twin children Fhatuwani and Julie are suspects. After receiving a telephone call that instructed the honourable judge of Thohoyandou to release the four prisoners who were kept in Vondwe prison, detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone went to the prison to interrogate the four prisoners. Detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone suspects Alphonso Fhambanani.

In Mphaphuli (1974:30) detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone says:

“Nne tshine tsha kha di nndina na u sa mpfusha ndi faela ya houla a no pfi Alphonso Fhambanani”. Ndi Vho-Mavhone vha ambaho vha tshi khou tshimbila-tshimbila na luvhande. Vha dovha vha isa phanda. “Ndi na lumuya nae houla muthannga. Kha vha vhone, a hu na tshine rine ra divha nga hae nga nndani ha uri ene mune u ri u pfi Alphonso Fhambanani. Dzina la Tshitaliana o li doba ngafhi? Khonani dzawe ndi vhone? Basa yawe i ngafhi? Nne ndi humbula na zwauri na dzina heli li nga di vha li si lawe hoyu muthu”.

*“(I am worried and unsatisfied by Alphonso Fhambanani's file,”*

*says Mavhone who is speaking while walking aimlessly in the arena. He further says, "I suspect that young man, Just look, there is nothing we know about him except that he is called Alphonso Fhambanani. Where did he get this Italian name? Who are his friends? Where is his ID? I also think that even this may not be his name").*

From the above extract, it is obvious that Tshimangadzo Mavhone suspects Alphonso Fhambanani of having some knowledge about the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani. He is suspected because of his Italian name and the police do not have records in his file. Indeed, his twin sister, together with Jack, are the ones who are threatening the police by telephone to release the four prisoners at Vondwe prison. After discovering FHS abbreviations on Alphonso Fhambanani's necklace, the police get on with their investigation.

Julie, her brother Fhatuwani (Alphonso Fhambanani) and Jack are suspects in this detective story as Julie and Jack are involved in the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani in order to have Fhatuwani and other three prisoners released from jail.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, there are two groups of criminals who are kidnappers. The first group is that of Julie and Jack, and the second one is that of Mukhakhisi and his gang. The first group of Julie and Jack is a group of kidnappers who want Julie's brother to be released from Vondwe prison. Julie depends on Jack who is a notorious criminal. She is depicted as a beautiful women who is well-behaved. She is also a lady teacher by profession.

Mphaphuli (1974:4) describes Carole as follows:

Carole o vha e musidzana o dzikaho, o nakaho na u linganela zwo fanelaho vhasidzana. O vha o fhumulesa lwe na vha ni si nga si sokou mu wela nga nthu. Musidzana hoyo ngoho o vha e na mikhwa nahone o funzea. Mikhwa yawe yo vha i tshi sumba uri o alutshela mudini u re na mulayo.

*(Carole was a cool girl, a beautiful and of medium size. She was cool and not easily approachable. She was well-behaved and was educated too. Her behaviour shows that she was brought up in a well disciplined family).*

From the above extract, it is clear that Carole is not a criminal by nature, she engaged herself in criminal activity to have her brother, Fhatuwani, released from jail. To achieve her aim, she asked Jack, a fearless criminal, to help her.

Carole is also characterised as a woman who is good at pretending. She attracts Jack by her beauty and smile. She knows how to cheat men.

Mphaphuli (1974:5) says:

Mbiluni yawe Jack o vha a tshi humbula uri Carole u a mu funa. Kha Carole zwo vha zwi songo ralo. Carole o vha a khou tou diitisa. O vha a tshi khou toda uri Jack a mu thuse nga zwinwe zwipida zwa kushumo kwawe (Carole) zwine zwa toda tshanda tsha munna a sa offhi.

(Jack in his heart thought that Carole loved him. To Carole it was not like that. Carole was pretending. She wanted Jack

to help her in some of her duties that need a brave man).

That is why Carole devoted herself to Jack as she needed help. She is a widow. She loves her twin brother Fhatuwani who is locked up in jail. That is why she is trying to have him released from jail.

She dresses like a modern woman. When she kidnapped Muofhe and Mutshinyani, she was wearing dark glasses and a wig. This is revealed in Mphaphuli(1974:8) when the narrator states:

Vhafumakadzi vha tshi swika tsini na gethe ya u dzhena tshikoloni tsha Raluswielo, Carole a mbo sendela tsini havho o di ambara ngilasi ntswu na wigi.

*(When the women reached the gate of Raluswielo School, Carole approached them wearing dark glasses and a wig).*

The author depicts her as a criminal by means of her appearance because the dark glasses and artificial hair change her appearance to be a different person. She is brave and courageous. This can be seen in Shayandima when Frelimo entered the old house.

In Mphaphuli (1974:70), Julie says this to Frelimo:

"Thetshesani. Hu na minango miraru i dzhenaho kha idzi dzinwe kamara. Zwenezwo Frelimo no tingwa. Rine ri khou ni vhona. Inwi a ni koni u ri vhona. Phanda hanu, murahu hanu na matungo anu hu na vhathu. Ndo vha ndi tshi do vha

ndo no ni vhulaya. Zwino ndi khou ni tshidza uri ndi divhe uri Vho-Mukhakhisi vha nga vha vha tshi toda mini kha zwa hashu vha songo rambiwa. Posani tshigidi fhasi. Posani zwino”.

*(“Listen. There are three enterances into this room. Therefore, you are surrounded, Frelimo. We see you but you cannot see us. There are people all around you. I could have killed you already. Now, I am rescuing you so that I could know the intent of Mukhakhisi in intervening in this matter. Throw your gun down. Throw it down no”).*

This extract indicates Julie’s bravery. She is not a coward. She disarmed Frelimo when he entered the old house with Jack in Shayandima. But eventually, Mukhakhisi and his gang defeat her.

Though she reveals a criminal character, Julie knows how to handle people. This is seen when she does not ill-treat the victims, Muofhe and Mutshinyani, at Shayandima. As a decent human being, she eventually pleads before her parents for the wrongs that she has done, when she abandoned them and got married in Botswana without her parents’ permission.

Jack on the other hand is depicted as unmarried criminal who is ugly and brave. However, he is not wise.

Mphaphuli (1974:5) says:

Jack hoyu we a vha a khou amba na Carole u tou pfi Jack



Maora. Muthannga hoyu naho zwa vhutali zwi songo tou ingwa khae, zwe a vha a tshi toda o vha a tshi ita a tshi zwi wana nga khani. O vha e na mbiti dzinwe dze dza vha dzi tshi nga ri u mu fara a si tsha kona u amba.

*(Jack, who was speaking to Carole is Jack Maora. Though this young man is not wise, he uses force to get whatever he wants. He is short-tempered and if he is angry he cannot even talk).*

From the above extract, one may associate Jack with the type of a criminal who is strong and brave. Because of his bravery, he becomes proud in such a way that he uses power of force to get whatever he wants. This is the reason why Carole associates herself with this type of a criminal. She thinks that Jack will use his power to force the police to release her twin brother, Fhatuwani, from jail.

Again, Jack is characterised as a type of criminal who is easily deceived by women. He is so stupid that he cannot see if he is deceived by a lady. This is a type of man, that ladies like to exploit. They can use such men as tools in order to reach their goals. No wonder when Julie uses Jack in her plan to release Fhatuwani from jail, it is because Jack is not wise. When Carole and Jack are talking about the four prisoners who are in Vondwe prison, Jack becomes emotionless. Carole attracts him by showing him her breasts.

Mphaphuli (1974:61) says:

Carole a tshuwa. Kani-ha zwa u amba nga ha zwivhotshwa o zwi nanisa? A mbo tavhanyedza a difara. Zwenezwo vho

di lavhelesana na Jack, Carole a gunublula gunubu dza rokho yawe. Musi a tshi swika kha ya vhuraru u bva mukoloni, mato a Jack a vha a si tsha huma. Naho hu uri Jack thungu ha ngo i vhona, vhutete na u dala ha tshivhumbeo tshao o tou zwi vhona zwavhudi.

*(Carole was afraid. Maybe she was sometimes speaking excessively about the prisoners? Suddenly, she contained herself. When they were looking at each other, Carole loosened the buttons of her dress. When she reached the third button from the neck, Jack's eyes were attracted. Even though Jack did not see the nipple, he had clearly seen the freshness and broadness of the breast).*

Jack is a man whose heart is easily won by women. Carole uses this tactic because she knows Jack very well. She has already studies his weak and strong points. The actions of Carole make Jack confident that Carole loves him. This type of criminal is found in real life.

Another group of criminals in this detective story is that of Mukhakhisi and his gang. This group comprises of four people, namely, Mukhakhisi as the leader of the group, Frelimo Mutingat, Casanova Madzungunye and Ganyani Makumbelo. These three criminals were released from jail by Mukhakhisi by paying for their fines so that the could help him in his criminal activities. Mukhakhisi's group comprises of people who know different crime techniques. Frelimo Mutingati is an expert in throwing knives even if he is far away from the opponent. Cassanova Madzungunye likes women very much. But he is selective. He loves women married to rich men who will give him money. Fanyani Makumbelo is an expert in forging signatures on cheques.

Indeed, Mukhakhisi and his gang captured the two women and their kidnapers.

Mukhakhisi, while talking to his members in Mahamba (1974:45) says the following:

Tshelede vhathannga ndi hone ro i wana. Havho vhathu vho habeledzaho vhafumakadzi havho vho tou da nga tshifhinga tsha musi tsho fhefhuwa. Rine ri toda hu re na vhasadzi havho. Ra vha wana ri vhulaya vho shavhaho navho. Vhafumakadzi vha dzhiwa nga rine. Rine ri toda tshelede. Ri i toda kha muvhuso. Ra kundwa hafha ri nga si tsha do dovha ra kona u ita tshelede. Ri fanela u vhidza tshelede vhukuma, R50 000,00. A si tshithu tshelede heyoy arali muvhuso wa pfesesa zwine ngayo wa do vha u khou rengulula.

*(Gentlemen, now we have found money. Those people who have kidnapped those women did so at the right time. We want to know the place where the women are. If we find them, we kill those who kidnapped them. Those women should be taken by us. We want money. We want it from the government. If we fail, we will never get a chance to make money. We must demand a lot of money, R50 000,00. It is not a lot of money if the government realises what we have to offer in exchange).*

Here, Mukhakhisi is planning with his members to kidnap Muofhe and Mutshinyani who have been kidnapped by Julie and Jack. They want to recapture these women so that they could demand a lot of money from the government. This gang of criminals is after money. Mukhakhisi's gang is tough and strong. This can be seen in Messina when the

police (detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu) meet Mukhakhisi's gang in Mafangambiti's house. Mukhakhisi's gang defeats the police.

Mphaphuli (1974:58) says:

A ho ngo vha na zwinwe. Vho-Mavhone na Vho-Ndifelani vho mbo di vhothelwa zwanda murahu. Nga ngomu milomoni yavho ha dzheniswa dzidugu. Nga nda ha milomo ha shatelwa nga mabannditshi mahulu. Vha iswa nduni ya u edela. Vha ladzwa fhasi kha fuloro. Na milenzhe yavho ya vhothiwa.

*(There was nothing else. Mavhone and Ndifelani had their hands tied at the back. Handkerchiefs were put in their mouths. Their mouths were sealed with big bandages. They were taken to the bedroom and were made to lie down on the floor. Their legs were also tied).*

This indicates Mukhakhisi's victory. He defeats the police who were tracking the culprits. Detective Tshihadu lost his life. Mukhakhisi's gang takes Mafangambiti and his wife to their old house at Shayandima where the two women are kept. This is really a strong group of criminals. They capture the two women together with their kidnapers, Julie and Jack, and hide them in the cave at Mangwele mountain. Eventually, they are defeated by the police after a fierce fight.

In *Bono la mboni*, there is one group of criminals. It comprises three gentlemen, namely; Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, there are two groups of criminals, namely; the group of Julie and Jack and that of Mukhakhisi and

his gang. The group of Julie and Jack is captured by the group of Mukhakhisi which is after money in *Nwana wa mme anga* where in *Bono la mboni*, Fingo's group is never captured by any other group of criminals. Criminals in **Bono la mboni** are murderers while, in *Nwana wa mme anga*, the two groups are kidnappers. Both groups in the two detective stories use guns in their criminals activity.

Fingo and his friends were acquitted twice in court because they bribed the prosecutor with R20 000,00 in *Bono la mboni*. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Mukhakhisi's criminal gang kidnapped the two women in order to demand R50 000,00 from the government. Fingo, Thomas and Gilbert are finally arrested by the police in *Bono la mboni*. Julie, Jack and Frelimo are also arrested. All in all, the criminals never defeat the law in either of the two detective novels.

#### 4.2.3 The detectives

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987:278) defines detective as "a person, especially a policeman, whose job is to find out information that will lead to criminals being caught. "This implies that characters who are investigating crime in a narrative are referred to as detectives. Their investigations do not end unnecessarily, at the end the criminals are arrested and punished.

The detective is the most important character whose main function is that of detection. He or she is the hero or heroine in the story. He or she investigates the crime in order to track down the culprits. Hence Auden, as cited in Winks (1989:21), says the detective must be "either the official representative of the ethical or the exceptional individual who is himself in a state of grace".

The work of the detective is difficult because he or she should maintain the state of grace in which the aesthetic and the ethical are one. He or she does this in opposition to the

criminals. Professional and amateur detectives are distinguished in a detective story. An amateur detective lacks know-how. In other words, he or she does not use scientific methods in his or her detection. This lack of know-how makes him or her livelier than the professional detective because he or she does not follow scientific methods in the detection of crime. Mason, as cited by Stewart (1980:25), believes that “the detective must be an outstanding person: actual, picturesque, amusing, a creature of power and singularity”.

This means that a detective should have an outstanding character traits and his aim should be that of bringing the culprits to justice without material gain. He is an interesting figure in a detective story who causes people to laugh. His work is to investigate the crime in order to find out the perpetrators. Hereunder follows an examination of how the two authors under review have depicted their detectives. The detective’s actions and words, and what other characters say of him or her, will be considered.

In *Bono la mboni*, two detectives investigate the crime of the death of Thizwilondo. These are detective Nedzamba and Masutha. These are under the senior police Muzila. Detective Sergeant Muzila is the one who is handling the case of Thizwilondi’s death, but he leaves it to the hands of his assistant detectives, Nedzamba and Masutha. Detective Nedzamba is portrayed as a man who is intelligent. Whenever they experience difficulties he is always able to shed light.

Mahamba (1984:16) says this:

Tshedzanyana tsho bva na Vho-Nedzamba vhe vha bvisa  
muhumbulo wa urí khonani dza mufu dzi vhe dzone dzi  
thomaho u sedzuluswa. Dzi re khonani dza musadzi-wa-  
vhane dzone, vha nga dzi divha fhedzi nga u tou kwama

vhabebi vha mufu.

*(Nedzamba brought little light when he suggested that the deceased's friends should be contacted first. The late's friends would be known by contacting her parents).*

This is a good suggestion. This reveals Nedzamba as a detective who knows his duty. He knows how to investigate a case. He has effective scientific strategies for detecting a crime. Though these detectives work as a team, they have different potentialities and attitudes. Detective Muzila is also characterised as a man who speaks with a harsh voice and intimidates the witnesses when he seeks information related to the crime.

In Mahamba (1989:18), Muzila says:

"Hafhu vha zwi divhe uri arali vha ri dzumba hu do vha u bala ha mafhungo. Vha a funa thuso yashu athiri?" Khofheni ha Vho-Muzila musi vha tshi khou amba nyambo iyi, hu vhonala ho finyekana hu na mitalo-mitalo.

*("You must know that if you conceal information, this case will be difficult to solve. Do you want our help?" While speaking Muzila's face had wrinkles).*

This is revealed when detective Muzila and Nedzamba interrogate Silidzhi about Thizwilondi's disappearance. The wrinkled fact indicates the rudeness of detective Muzila. He is a person who uses force to get information. When he asks Ntshengedzeni about the disappearance of her elder sister, detective Muzila speaks with a harsh voice. This is one of his traits. An investigator needs to be a person who speaks in a

commanding voice. This enables him or her to frighten the witnesses into revealing concealed information about the crime.

During the funeral of Thizwilondi Silidzhi, the two detectives suspected Roberto Fingo. Suspicion plays a very important role in the detection of crime. Even Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa are arrested because they were suspected of being responsible for Thizwilondi's death.

Mampuru (1986:163) says that:

In the detective story the reader does not know the truth at all, one of the characters - the murderer does; and the detective, of his own free will, discovers and reveals what the murderer, of his own free will, tries to conceal.

In the detective story, the main interest of detection lies in finding out the true order and meaning of events that have been partly unlocked and partly concealed. There is no way that the detective could find the culprits except through suspicion and through the consultative method.

Detective Muzila and Nedzamba triumph as characters from the moment we meet them, in appearance, manner and style of their deductions. They prove to be great men who are at the same time human.

Though the detectives are defeated twice in court because of bribery that the suspects made with the prosecutor and the witnesses, they do not lose hope.

After the death of Nndanduleni Ratshali, Roberto Fingo is arrested by detective Muzila



and other two policemen. That is where Muzila is portrayed as a cruel man. While interrogating Roberto Fingo to reveal the truth, he excessively hits him with heavy blows.

Mahamba (1989:00) says:

Vhosedzheni Muzila vho do sendela khae vho sinyuwa. Vha tshi mu hasha nga mulatela, lwe Fingo a ita na u wa nga tshitiko, vha ri khae, "jou dom". U ralo Vho-Abel vha lidza na tsanwa, vha dovha vhe, "No mu vhulahelani jou fool?".

*(Sergeant Muzila angrily approached him. He struck him with the back of his hand. Fingo then fell down on his back and he (Muzila) said to him "jou dom". After that, Abel says to him, "you stupid" and further says: "Why did you kill her, you fool").*

Here, Sergeant Muzila is hitting Roberto Fingo to get information about Thizwilondi's death. Because of pressure, Fingo reveals all what he had done with his friends. As a result Roberto Fingo and his two friends are arrested.

In *Nwana wa mme anga*, we find two detectives; namely, Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu who are investigating the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani. These two detectives are working under inspector Tshibuleni.

Through dialogue between Ndifelani and Tshibuleni, we learn that detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone is gifted in criminal cases. Shibuleni trusts and relies on him in detection of crime. When speaking to Ndifelani, Tshibuleni in Mahamba (1974:17) says:

Tsha u thoma ndi khou humbula uri pholisa Tshimangadzo a

ye hangei dzhele ya Vondwe. Vho-Mavhone vha na mpho ya u tumbula zwithu. Vha fanela u sengulusa zwivhotshwa izwo zwina.

(Firstly, I have an opinion that detective Tshimangadzo must go to Vondwe prison. Mavhone has a gift of discovering things. He must conduct an investigation about the four prisoners).

We know a character by means of a dialogue, actions and through what he or she says or others say about him or her. Through the dialogue of Tshibuleni and Ndifelani, we come to know that detective Mavhone has potential and skills of investigating crime. Muofhe and Mutshinyani's kidnapping in this detective story provides the puzzle which Tshimangadzo Mavhone must unravel and its complexity ensures engagement of an intellect. This could be achieved by detection.

In their detective engagement, Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu use a fixed pattern to establish who the kidnappers could be. He pays a visit to the four prisoners in Vondwe, he goes to Futelela High School to find out whether Fhatuwani has attended that school, after that he pays a visit to Fhatuwani's parents in Messina to investigate about Mafangambiti's children until he finds them at Mangwele Mountain. All these are procedures followed in the investigation of a crime by Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu.

Detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone is also depicted as a man who knows to defend himself both by a gun and karate. This revealed during a fierce fight between Mukhakhisi's gang and the police at Messina.

Mphaphuli (1974:57) says:

Musi Frelimo o no vha tsini navho, Vho-Mavhone sa munna mudivha karate vha diposa khae sa tshipiringi. Milenzhe yavho ya rwa khana ya Frelimo. Ene a tuwa sa bombo yo rithwaho nga nzhini ya dzhethe. A swika a zhaka Ganyani vhuvhili havho vha dala fhasi. Tshigidi tsha wela kule.

*(When Frelimo was close to him, Mavhone as a karate man threw himself on him like a spring. His legs hit Frelimo's chest. Frelimo went down like a bomb ejected from a jet's engine. He fell on Ganyani's body and both fell down. The gun fell far away from him).*

From the above extract Mavhone is depicted as a man who knows karate. His skills of karate can be seen when he kicked Frelimo in Mafangambiti's house. Unfortunately, his co-worker detective Tshihadu was killed by Frelimo with a knife.

After detective Tshihadu's funeral, Tshimangadzo Mavhone gets on with tracking down the culprits. This shows that he is a courageous and brave detective who does not want crime to prevail in the society. Though he is brave, when things are difficult, he seeks help from other police. Through the help of other detectives, Tshimangadzo Mavhone succeeds in arresting the perpetrators. But some of the perpetrators lost their lives during the fierce fighting at Mangwele Mountain.

In *Bona la mboni*, two professional detectives are detecting the crime of the killing of Thizwilondi Silidzhi. These are detective Muzila and Nedzamba. While in *Nwana wa mme anga*, we also find two professional detectives who are investigating the crime of

the kidnapping of Muofhe Ndikandafhi and Mutshinyani. They are detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu. Detective Muzila is depicted as a leader of the investigating team in *Bono la mboni* whereas detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone is also depicted as a leader of the investigating team in *Nwana wa mme anga*. Both detectives are skillful in the two selected detective stories. All of them use consultative method to find the clue that will lead them to the arrest of the criminals.

Detectives Muzila and Nedzamba are helped by an ordinary person, Richard in their investigation to arrest the criminals in *Bono la mboni* whereas detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone is helped by other police to arrest the criminals. Both detectives in the two selected detective stories have succeeded in arresting the criminals.

#### 4.3 **RéSUMÉ**

In this chapter the depiction of the victims, suspects, murderers and detectives as characters in the detective story have been analysed. Thizwilondi as a victim in *Bono la mboni* is killed by her boyfriends Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa. Detectives Muzila and Nedzamba engage themselves in investigating this crime. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, Muofhe and Mutshinyani are kidnapped by Julie and Jack. As a result, detective Tshimangadzo Mavhone and Tshihadu are called upon to investigate this crime.

The victim Thizwilondi has been well portrayed, for she satisfies to be a corrupt character. Her unfaithfulness makes Roberto Fingo, Thomas Everson and Gilbert Tshirwa end her life. Muofhe and Mutshinyani as victims are well portrayed in *Nwana wa mme anga*. They fall victim of circumstances because they are kidnapped by Julie and Jack.

Concerning the suspects, both authors of the two selected detective stories have made them clearly recognisable. They did not concentrate much on the description of the characters, but on the important role they play. In as far as the detectives are concerned,

two professional and skillful detective are used in both selected detective stories. Both authors use minimum description and plenty of conversation; that is why these stories are so effective. Roberto Fingo and his friends in *Bono la mboni* are depicted as murderers who know the when and how to kill a person. Jack and Julie; Mukhakhisi and his gang in *Nwana wa mme anga*, are portrayed as skillful kidnappers who know how to kidnap a person.

In as far as the characterisation is concerned both authors in the two detective novels succeed in depicting the victims, suspects and the detectives.

## CHAPTER 5

### 5. CONCLUSION

The primary focus of this chapter is to look back and draw conclusions and findings on the entire work. A comparative assessment of the texts will be made when rounding off the contents in the previous chapters. Some recommendations and the future of detective novel in Tshivenda will be highlighted.

The findings observed in this work are that there are few detective stories in Tshivenda. Authors in Tshivenda literature are devoted to other types of novels. Only *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga* in Tshivenda literature are real detective novels. Apartheid played an important role in hindering the fast development of this type of novel in Tshivenda literature. As South Africa has attained democracy, this type of novel is expected to develop quickly and fast.

Looking at the background information of the authors of *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga*, namely; Mahamba and Mphaphuli, one can find that they differ in great respect. Mahamba is younger than Mphaphuli. There is a difference of 12 years in their ages. Apart from that, Mahamba is a pastor whilst Mphaphuli is a teacher of a Primary School. This could also lead to the differences in the themes of their narratives.

In as far as the plots of *Bono la mboni* and *Nwana wa mme anga* are concerned, both selected detective novels are obsessed with plotting in two senses. In other words, they consist of two stories, i.e. the metadiegetic story, which is a story of crime and the diegetic story, which is the death of Thizwilondi in *Bono la mboni* and the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani in *Nwana wa mme anga*. Both crimes in the selected novels cause a lot of problems for the families of the victims and the community at large because the victims disappeared mysteriously. These crimes contribute in the development of

action in both selected detective novels.

The rising action concern the investigation of crime. In their detection, the police follow clues to have the mystery solved. It is in this part of the plot of the detective story where it is full of suspense, surprise and dramatic irony.

Another observation in the detection of crime of both selected detective novels is that the detection in *Bono la mboni* starts in the middle fo the narrative. It does not start from the beginning of the detective story. This is due to the fact that, the author delays investigation of crime while giving a full explanation regarding Thizwilondi's early life. The investigation in *Nwana wa mme anga* starts from the beginning of the narrative after the kidnapping of Muofhe and Mutshinyani.

The climaxes of both selected detective novels are well handled. The climax in *Bono la mboni* is reached when Roberto Fingo is arrested and reveals other perpetrators after being ill-treated. In *Nwana wa mme anga*, the climax is characterised by a fierce fighting between the police and the perpetrators at Mangwele Mountain. Both authors try their best in this respect.

Concerning the ending of both detective novels, it is also handled in a good way. The detective story in *Bono la mboni* ends when Carole and Jack are captured by the detectives and Muofhe and Mutshinyani are rescued. There is great joy in both the selected detective stories once the perpetrators are rescued. There is great joy in both the selected detective stories once the perpetrators are arrested. In both detective stories, mystery is resolves when the criminals are arrested and sentenced to jail.

Mahamba uses few instances of dramatic irony in his detective novel. This can be realised when Thizwilondi falls pregnant and when Thizwilondi's boyfriends plan to kill her

after finding her love affair with Eddie Williams. These dramatic ironies help to develop the plot this detective story. Mphaphuli in *Nwana wa mme anga*, uses dramatic irony in many situations, i.e. when Carole pretends to love Jack, in Mafangamibiti's house and the fierce fighting at Mangwele Mountain also occurs dramatically. Both authors handle this aspect in a more than sufficient way, though Mahamba uses dramatic irony in only a few instances.

In as far as the setting of these selected detective novels is concerned, Mahamba and Mphaphuli uses Venda and its surrounding areas as the place of action. It seems as if both authors are familiar with the country as they are born and bred in this country. The time during which the events take place in the two selected detective stories is modern. This is disclosed by the means of transport and tools used, the detective style of investigating crime, the type of crime committed and the life of the characters as a whole (i.e. victims, suspects and detectives).

There are other incidents in *Nwana wa mme anga* which one could hardly believe could occur in a country like Venda during the time which this detective novel is written. The incident of Julie and Jack when hiding the two women, Muofhe and Mutshinyani in Maangamibiti's old deserted house at Shayandima is unbelievable.

Shayandima is a location with houses situated close to each other. When the community sees people in the house which no longer has people living there, they might have told the police to investigate them as the disappearance of Muofhe and Mutshinyani is announced in the media (radio). For this reason, the author might have drawn his inspiration from other books and forced incidents to occur in a Venda setting.

Concerning the characters we have observed that characters in a detective story are grouped as victims, suspects (criminals) and detectives. This differentiates the detective



novel from other types of novel. The victims in both selected detective novels are depicted convincingly. Thizwilondi in *Bono la mboni* deserves to be a victim of circumstance because of her corrupt life. Muofhe and Mutshinyani also deserve to be victims in *Nwana wa mme anga* as they do not know the place they are going to.

Concerning the suspects in the selected detective novels, the authors do not concentrate on their description by they are recognisable by the roles they play in both detective novels. Roberto Fingo and his friends, in *Bono la mboni*, complicate the evidence by using financial bribe. This delays in the investigation helps to disclose these criminals and they are finally sentenced to serve a jail sentence. In *Nwana wa mme anga* the criminals' hiding delays the investigation more complicated. All suspects in both selected novels never defeat the law as they are finally arrested and sentenced to a jail term.

In as far as the detectives are concerned, they are portrayed as professionals in both selected detective stories. They investigate crime in a scientific and professional way. They follow different steps and suspect people in order to identify the criminals. When interviewed by the researcher, Inspector Mamuthubi of Siloam Police Station, who works in the detective' section, says, "once a crime has occurred and is reported, the police or detectives go to the crime scene and cordon off the area. If fingerprints and other apparatus used by the criminals are found, they are taken to the laboratory for testing".

Inspector Mamuthubi's statement is in line with what Muzila and Masutha did in *Bono la mboni* after the death of Thizwilondi. The place where Thizwilondi is found lying is cordoned off and people are called to identify the corpse. A postmortem is also conducted. All this indicates the detectives as professionals who know their job. They are also delineated as detectives who have skills of fighting and arresting criminals.

As we have observed that detective novels are scarce, we would like to make a prediction

regarding their future in Tshivenda literature. Many authors of Tshivenda literature have not devoted themselves too much to this type of novel. They may sometimes lack the knowledge to write this type of novels. But once something has been done, everybody can do it. Other writers will emulate and imitate the works of these two pioneers in Tshivenda detective novels, Mahamba and Mphaphuli. This will increase the number of detective novels in Tshivenda.

As detective stories first developed in countries like England, France and America, we encourage authors of Tshivenda literature to read more Western books about the detectives. They will acquire knowledge and skills to write this type of novel and as such there will be an increase in the number of detective novels in Tshivenda. Apart from that, it will help to eliminate the number of crimes that are being committed in this country.

In the past the detectives employed were not fully trained. We recommend that academic requirements should be a prerequisite when employing detectives rather than concentrating on their heir physical fitness alone. They should also undergo retraining and attend more courses which will enhance the quality of detection. In South Africa, an Academy for detectives has been opened. As there are only 304 detectives in South Africa, the number will be increased as quickly as possible (Dullah Omar, SABC interview, 1998). This will make the information of detection accessible to the people and more books about detection of crime will be produced. Together, both authors and detectives will help to condemn the crime that is prevailing in this country.

All in all, Mahamba and Mphaphuli remain the pioneers of Tshivenda detective novels. We encourage other authors to follow the trend of these two pioneers.

In conclusion, this story has been devoted to the analysis of plot, setting and characterisation in the two detective stories in Tshivenda. It is recommended that future

researchers should examine other aspects of detective stories to enrich our literature.

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