

## Representations of Women as Witches in Selected IsiZulu Novels - **Nogwaja S. Zulu** (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

This study is a literary analysis of the representations of black African women in selected isiZulu novels across various literary periods. The study focuses on how black African women are portrayed as witches and users of harmful witch medicine. The sample of selected isiZulu novels is from the first published isiZulu novel, *Nje nempela* (Never) (1943) by Benedict Vilakazi to the novels in 2010's. By employing Kimberlé Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality, the representations of women are analysed. The observation made in the study about the depiction of black African women as witches, it that their characterisation as witches is the interplay of race and ethnicity as blacks and Africans, gender and patriarchy as women who are grappling with the effects of hegemonic patriarchy, and class as the poor of the poorest in democratic South Africa.