

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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**ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF PUMULA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
TOWARDS READING ISINDEBELE LITERATURE**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Academic Supervisor

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BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2016



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ABSTRACT

The study evolved out of the researcher's realisation and conscientisation about the importance of indigenous languages, literature and knowledge systems and was triggered to investigate the attitudes and perceptions of Pumula High school students towards reading isiNdebele literature, given that there is now abundant isiNdebele literature in the book market. Specifically, the study sought to find out the students' attitudes; students' perceptions of their significant people's beliefs; the acceptable behaviour among students towards reading isiNdebele literature, and lastly to establish motivational factors influencing the students to read isiNdebele literature. The study was underpinned by the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) whose constructs of attitudes, behavioural intention (motivational factors), subjective norms and social norms proved valuable to the tackling of research questions and data analysis. The study rested on both the positivist and interpretivist paradigms and adopted the quantitative and qualitative approaches within a survey research design. The population consisted of 495 school students of Pumula High School. The sample size was 286 and it took into account the equal representation of all the six form grades. The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. The overall response rate was 54.5% with 156 questionnaires being returned out of the 286 that were distributed whereas only 10 students were interviewed out of the targeted 12. Statistical and textual analysis was used as the interpretation and presentation techniques and a conclusion was drawn from both analyses. The study found that the majority of the students have positive attitudes towards reading isiNdebele literature because help them to pass their studies and improve their spoken and written isiNdebele language. The students read a variety of literature although they were more inclined to read exam based materials than recreational materials. The research results also indicated that most students motivate themselves and were also influenced by their significant others, parents especially, to read the isiNdebele literature and they were not reluctant to do so especially when it is was for educational purposes. The students perceive their significant others to be their sources of encouragement, expert knowledge and supporting guidance and they were willing to do behave in a way that makes these significant others happy and proud of them. The students' intention to read isiNdebele literature proved to be stronger as shown by the many times they read on a regular basis. The study recommended the following in order to shape positive attitudes and perception of students towards reading isiNdebele literature. Students were encouraged to take the initiative and create edutainment opportunities, such as book talks, reading games and writing book reviews, to read isiNdebele literature. The parents were urged to provide a variety of isiNdebele books in their homes and be families that enjoy reading whilst spending time together. Focusing on the internal reward of personal satisfaction and achievement of goals that matter to every individual student was also emphasized to the school teachers.