
CHAPTER 3

Exploring Sex and Sexuality in Shona Idioms and Idiomatic Phrases: Trajectory of Thought or Shift in Thought Tyanai Charamba

Introduction

Shona idioms are part of Shona people's lingo-cultural heritage. They are a reservoir of Shona people's perception of reality and general world outlook. With the passage of time, Shona idioms are giving birth to some new forms of idioms and idiomatic phrases. The new idioms and idiomatic phrases have the potential to modify, maintain and even play down the meaning and content of the traditional ones. Furthermore, they at times carry with them new meanings and sensibilities. In doing so, the new idioms and idiomatic phrases have the potential to either modify or play down Shona people's perception of reality. This chapter achieves three objectives. In the first place, it comes up with a body of traditional and modern Shona idioms and idiomatic phrases that relate to heterosexual encounters. In the second place, it compares traditional and modern Shona idioms and idiomatic phrases with the view of establishing Shona people's shift in thought and/or trajectory of thought in relation to sexual encounters between men and women. In the third place, the chapter grapples with how the shift in thought and/or trajectory of thought that is reflected in modern Shona idioms impact on Shona people's perceptions of sex and sexuality in general.

The researcher used two types of data gathering instruments to come up with the body of traditional and modern idioms and idiomatic phrases for use in the chapter. He gathered traditional Shona idioms and idiomatic phrases from published oral poems and from some published texts and articles that treat Shona idioms and idiomatic phrases that relate to sex and sexuality. The researcher distributed