

Conference Name: HuSoc Bali – Humanities & Social Sciences International Conference, 21-22 July 2025

Conference Dates: 21-Jul- 2025 to 22-Jul- 2025

Conference Venue: Ibis Bali Kuta, Jl. Raya Kuta No. 77, 80361 Kuta, Bali, Indonesia

Appears in: PEOPLE: International Journal of Social Sciences (ISSN 2454-5899)

Publication year: 2025

Sizwe Zwelakhe Dlamini, 2025

Volume 2025, pp. 306-307

DOI- <https://doi.org/10.20319/icssh.2025.306307>

This paper can be cited as: Zwelakhe Dlamini, S.(2025). *The Nation in Turmoil: A Post-Colonial Critique of South African Editorial Cartoons*. HuSoc Bali – Humanities & Social Sciences International Conference, 21-22 July, 2025, Proceedings of Social Science and Humanities Research Association (SSHRA), 2025, 306-307

THE NATION IN TURMOIL: A POST-COLONIAL CRITIQUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONS

Sizwe Zwelakhe Dlamini

*Department of African Languages, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South
Africa*

sizwed@uj.ac.za

Abstract

There seems to be little research that has been done to investigate cartoons from a literary criticism point of view. Cartoons have been given attention mostly in discipline like semiotics as compared to other scholarly perspectives. The aim of this article is to attempt to bridge this gap by observing cartoons through the post-colonial approach as a literary theory. The study adopts systematic visuo-textual analysis as a qualitative research technique since cartoons are the primary sources of data collection and analysis. Through the application of the post-colonial theory, the findings demonstrate that there are depicted socio-cultural, socio-economic, and political issues in Mngadi's editorial cartoons. These include gender-based violence, identity crisis and immorality, difficult economic living conditions, unemployment, racism, corruption, and leadership concerns in government. This article is significant because it contributes to the scholarship of the cartoon genre in the South African indigenous languages, which has not been given sufficient attention. It provides a different perspective of analysing cartoons by adopting the post-colonial theory as a literary theory. Since cartoons are predominately approached through other approaches like semiotics, this article attempts to demonstrate that this genre can also be

examined through literary criticism approaches such the post-colonial theory. This will demonstrate how broad this theory is. While the theory is generally employed to scrutinise prose genres mostly, an attempt is made to show that it can also be valuable in the analysis of editorial cartoons.

Keywords:

Editorial Cartoons, Post-Colonial Theory, Literary Criticism, Nation