

## **ABSTRACT**

Motif is an important aspect in literature. Motif is an element that involves the repetition of a certain idea or a theme in literal works like the novel, play, poems and oral literature. This study aimed at investigating a thematic analysis of the secretive motif in Kiswahili prose in the selected literatures intertextually. The study examined how the selected writers used the concept of secret in their literal works and managed to develop this concept to the level of a motif. The research investigated the way the secretive motif was used in the development of character and characterization as well as the presentation of the main ideas. The study investigated how the authors of the selected texts used the secretive motif in the development of characters and themes in their work. The research was carried out in the library and it examined the various aspects that used the secretive motif by comparing the selected works in the levels of character and characterization and the main ideas. The tenets of the theory of intertextuality by Kristeva Julia (1969) guided the study. The main idea of this theory is that; no literal work can stand on its own but each literal work is an echo of another work that was written before. The tenets also helped in investigating the consequences of keeping secrets as well as sharing out secrets in the selected Swahili literal works. This theory guided the collection and later sampling and analysis of the data collected. Purposive sampling was used to select seven literal works which were studied. The literal texts were selected because they had used the concept of secret in their titles which could be noted from all the selected books. Data analysis was qualitative based on the data collected as guided by the tenets of the theory and was presented descriptively. The findings of this study would benefit editors by enabling them to review works that are related to motifs. Teachers and students at all levels of education in the education system would also be able to understand the analysed works. Authors would also use the findings of this study to write literal works in relation to the secretive motif. The findings of the research would add more information to the existing knowledge on the secretive motif and in various Swahili Literature.