

BUSHMAN VERSUS SAN

THE FOLLOWING excerpt is taken from Lucie Möller's recent publication *Of the Same Breath: Indigenous Animal and Place Names* (Bloemfontein, Sun Media, 2017, p. 313). It is included here as it not only follows the previous discussion in this section, but addresses a recently imposed convention which, it turns out, is problematic. The *Natalia* editorial committee thus decided to include this excerpt in this volume of the journal for interest.

The term Bushman, Bushmen *vide* San: Bushman is used throughout [this work] to refer to the language. Regarding the use of the terms *Bushmen* for the speakers of this language and, as referred to more often as the *San* people, Raper (2012: 4-6) elaborated on this sensitive issue indicating that: 'The different tribes and clans started using the name Bushmen. But political correctness proclaimed this an insult and declared that they should be referred to as San. Where Bushmen merely means that they are "people of the bush" (or close to nature), San was a Khoi

word meaning "vagrants, people who have nothing". And because of this misguided correctness we now use the more derogatory name for our first inhabitants (<http://www.southafrica.com/forums/open-board/5901-whats-name.html>)'. Raper and Möller (2015: 405), after having consulted various sources on the Internet, including those of the South African San Council, also concluded: 'It would thus seem that, at one stage, Bushman was regarded as a derogatory name, and the term San was preferred, but that recently Bushman has become acceptable again, and although the term Bushman is still regarded by some as offensive or derogatory, San is considered more so.' See also Van Vuuren (2016: 155) quoting Gordon and Douglas *The Bushman Myth* (2000: 4-8, 177), for a discussion on the rehabilitation of the term Bushman. The spelling Khoi-San (Khoe-San) is preferred to Khoisan in order to give equal acknowledgement to both language groups where this term is used as a convenient term of 'general reference' (see <http://san.org.za/history.php/SASI>/Written in the sand: a history of San peoples of South Africa).

