

ALT 102: Introduction to Eastern African Oral Literature

Unit Description

This is an introductory unit with the overall objective of broadening the students' perspective and understanding of oral literature through studying their own oral literature as it is expressed and studied in Eastern Africa. Students should be able to appreciate the central place of orature in the broad spectrum of the discipline of literature in general.

The unit shall thus introduce the students to the socio-historical and pedagogical developments of orature with a view to contextualising it so that the students comprehend the motivations and ramifications of various phases that Eastern African orature and its study has gone through since the 19th century. By the end of the unit the student should be able to describe orature material from Eastern Africa, explaining its development to date; and forecast the nature of the future of oral literature study in Eastern Africa in terms of directions, opportunities and challenges in the 21st century.

Unit Objectives

The course aims at introducing the students to:

- ❖ The socio-historical context of the development of orature across the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras.
- ❖ The content and functions of the genres of orature in East Africa.
- ❖ The concept of performance in oral literature.
- ❖ The relationship between orature and contemporary African literature both oral and written.

References

- ✓ Adagala, K. And Mukabi, W. *Kenyan Oral Narratives*
- ✓ Bukenya, A. Et. Al.. *Understanding Oral Literature*.
- ✓ Finnegan, Ruth. *Oral Literature in Africa*
- ✓ Kichamu, A. And Bole, O. *Teaching Oral Literature in Schools*
- ✓ Taban Lo Liyong.. *Popular Culture of East Africa*.
- ✓ P'Bitek, O. *The Hyena And the Rock*.
- ✓ Kabele, D. *Certificate Guide to Oral Literature Research*.