



Urban Imaginaries in Somali Literature: A Survey of Contemporary Representations

Ali Warsame¹, Mohamed Abdi¹, Abdikhaliq Aliyu², Hassan Ahmed²

¹ Mogadishu University

² University of Hargeisa

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Correspondence: awarsame@gmail.com

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Author notes

*Ali Warsame is affiliated with Mogadishu University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.
Mohamed Abdi is affiliated with Mogadishu University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.
Abdikhaliq Aliyu is affiliated with University of Hargeisa and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.
Hassan Ahmed is affiliated with University of Hargeisa and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

Abstract

Urban Imaginaries in Somali Literature examines how contemporary African writers represent urban life in Somalia, a country with significant cultural and linguistic diversity. A content analysis approach was employed to examine a sample of contemporary Somali novels, short stories, and poetry that explicitly or implicitly deal with urban settings. Textual features, themes, and narrative styles were analysed for thematic consistency across works. The analysis reveals a recurring theme of urban displacement and the struggle between traditional values and modernization, as well as a growing interest in global cultural exchanges within Somali literature. This study contributes to our understanding of how contemporary African writers are reflecting on their cities through literary works. It highlights specific themes that have emerged over recent years, providing insights into urban imaginaries in Somalia. Future research could delve deeper into the socio-political contexts influencing these representations and explore cross-cultural comparisons with other African nations' urban literature. Somali Literature, Urban Imaginaries, Contemporary Fiction

Keywords: *African geography, Urban sociology, Cultural studies, Postcolonial theory, Ethnography, Multilingualism, Diaspora studies*

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