



Comparative Analysis of African Creation Myths in Sierra Leone Cultural Context

Koroma Kargbo¹

¹ Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology

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Correspondence: kkargbo@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Koroma Kargbo is affiliated with Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Creation myths are central to African cultures, offering insights into cosmogony, creation stories, and cultural identity. Sierra Leone's diverse ethnic groups share a rich tapestry of creation narratives that reflect unique local traditions. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including literature review, semi-structured interviews with traditional storytellers, and participant observation in cultural events. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis and comparative synthesis techniques. The Yalunka creation myth, 'Wolofu', features a powerful female deity creating the world, while Mende myths emphasise communal creation through deities. The Kru stories focus on sea gods and their role in cultural identity. This study reveals significant thematic overlaps but distinct narrative structures among Sierra Leonean cultures, highlighting the importance of local traditions in understanding African cosmology. Further research should explore intergenerational transmission of creation myths and their impact on contemporary religious and educational practices.

Keywords: *African geography, cosmogony, cultural anthropology, comparative literature, myth theory, oral tradition, ethnohistory*

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