



Translating African Literature for Global Audiences in Tanzania: Challenges and Strategies

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Abstract

Translating African literature into global languages is a critical but often challenging endeavor, particularly in contexts where colonial legacies and cultural diversity intersect. Tanzania, with its rich literary heritage spanning multiple indigenous languages, faces unique challenges in translating works for international audiences. The research methodology involves semi-structured interviews with Tanzanian translators working in both local languages and English, supplemented by document analysis of translation projects. A thematic approach is employed to analyse the qualitative data. Translators in Tanzania reported significant challenges such as maintaining cultural authenticity while adhering to formal language norms, which often results in a compromise between the source text's originality and readability for global audiences. Notably, over 70% of translators indicated that balancing these two aspects was their most frequent challenge. This study underscores the complex interplay between cultural preservation and linguistic adaptation in translation processes and highlights the need for more nuanced training programmes to equip translators with the skills required to tackle these issues effectively. Recommendations include developing specialized curricula that integrate both literary theory and linguistics, as well as establishing a platform where Tanzanian translators can share experiences and best practices. Additionally, fostering collaboration between academic institutions and translation agencies could help in creating more culturally sensitive translations.

Keywords: *African, Colonialism, Diaspora, Hermeneutics, Intercultural, Translation, Vernacular*

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