



Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West Africa: A Comparative Study in Mozambique,

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Abstract

Theatre and performance in West Africa have long served as a platform for social commentary, addressing issues such as politics, culture, and societal norms. Mozambique is an important case study within this region due to its rich theatrical traditions and contemporary engagements with global influences. The research methodology involves an analysis of historical and contemporary theatrical productions, interviews with performers and scholars, and comparative studies between Mozambique and other West African countries. Data will be analysed using qualitative content analysis methods to identify recurring themes in the works studied. Findings indicate that Mozambican theatre often addresses issues such as political corruption, social inequality, and cultural preservation through innovative performance styles like puppetry and spoken word poetry. The proportion of plays focusing on these themes was significant across different decades. This study reveals the enduring significance of theatre in Mozambique for engaging with societal challenges and promoting dialogue on critical issues. It highlights specific techniques used by performers to effect social change. Further research should explore how contemporary technology can enhance theatrical performances as a tool for social commentary, while also considering the impact of globalization on local artistic traditions.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, African, theatricality, socio-political, theory, ethnography, feminism*

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