



Oral Traditions in Southern African Communities of Rwanda: A Survey Research

Bakatsa Katabaranega¹

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Rwanda

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Correspondence: bkatabaranega@aol.com

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Author notes

Bakatsa Katabaranega is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Rwanda and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Oral traditions play a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage across Southern African communities. Rwanda's diverse ethnic groups have rich oral histories that reflect their spiritual beliefs and social practices. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating semi-structured interviews with community leaders and participants, alongside ethnographic observations. Quantitative data were collected through structured surveys distributed among a stratified sample of the population. Oral traditions significantly contribute to Rwanda's cultural identity, with over 60% of respondents citing their importance in preserving historical narratives and spiritual practices. This study underscores the vital role of oral traditions as primary sources of history within Rwandan communities. The findings suggest that such traditions are under threat from modernization and media influences. Efforts should be made to document and promote these oral traditions through educational programmes, community events, and digital platforms to ensure their longevity.

Keywords: *African geography, Oral traditions, Heritage studies, Methodology, Ethnography, Cultural anthropology, Folklore studies*

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