



# Translating African Literature across Kenyan Borders: Challenges and Strategies

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## Abstract

Translating African literature across borders is a complex process that involves not only linguistic translation but also cultural adaptation to ensure meaningful reception by diverse audiences. The research methodology involves an analysis of existing translation projects from Africa, with particular emphasis on those originating from or targeted towards Kenya. Qualitative data is collected through interviews with translators, literature reviews, and case study analyses. A significant challenge identified was the need for translators to maintain cultural authenticity while also ensuring that translated works are accessible to a global audience, which often requires reinterpreting certain idiomatic expressions and literary devices in new contexts. This comparative study underscores the importance of context-specific approaches in translation projects, highlighting the necessity of balancing fidelity to original texts with adaptability for different target audiences. Translators should be encouraged to engage more deeply with both source and target cultures to foster a nuanced understanding that enriches the translated text. Additionally, there is a need for training programmes that equip translators with tools necessary for effective cross-cultural communication in literature translation.

**Keywords:** *African Literature, Translatability, Cultural Adaptation, Hermeneutics, Translation Studies, Intercultural Communication, Postcolonial Criticism*

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