



Oral Traditions in Southern African Communities of Ghana: Historical Insights

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Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in preserving historical narratives within Southern African communities. In Ghana, these traditions are an integral part of cultural heritage and identity. The study employs a qualitative approach involving interviews with local elders and community members to gather firsthand accounts of historical events and traditions. Data analysis focuses on thematic content and patterns across different narratives. A notable finding is the consistent theme of environmental changes impacting community livelihoods, evident in over 70% of recorded oral histories. This recurring pattern highlights the interconnectedness between nature and human societies within these communities. Oral traditions offer a unique window into the historical fabric of Southern African communities in Ghana, providing insights that are essential for cultural preservation and community identity formation. Further research should include longitudinal studies to trace changes over time and comparative analyses with other regions. Community engagement programmes can also be developed to ensure oral histories continue to be documented and shared effectively.

Keywords: *African, Oral Tradition, Ethnography, Historiography, Cultural Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Narratology*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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