



Translating African Literature in Ethiopia: Challenges and Strategies

Tsekretu Teklehaimanot^{1,2}, Gelila Endris¹, Mulu Aba³

¹ Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Addis Ababa

² Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI)

³ Bahir Dar University

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Correspondence: tteklehaimanot@outlook.com

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Author notes

Tsekretu Teklehaimanot is affiliated with Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Addis Ababa and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Gelila Endris is affiliated with Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Addis Ababa and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Mulu Aba is affiliated with Bahir Dar University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Ethiopia is a significant player in African literature, with numerous works that have global appeal. However, translating these works for an international audience presents unique challenges. The research employs a qualitative approach, involving in-depth interviews with translators, publishers, and scholars who have worked on translating Ethiopian literature. Data was analysed using thematic content analysis. Translators reported that maintaining the cultural essence of Ethiopian literature while ensuring readability for non-African readers is particularly challenging. They also noted that a significant proportion (70%) of translated works require additional editorial work to enhance understanding and engagement among global audiences. The study highlights the need for specialized training programmes for translators working on Ethiopian literature, emphasising the importance of cultural sensitivity and readability in translation processes. Publishers should prioritise feedback from target audience members to better understand their preferences and challenges with Ethiopian literary translations. Training workshops aimed at improving translator skills are also recommended.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, African Studies, Translation Theory, Cultural Preservation, Intercultural Communication, Hermeneutics, Ethnography*

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