



Oral Traditions in Southern African Communities of Senegal: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in preserving historical narratives within Southern African communities, particularly in Senegal where oral storytelling is an integral part of cultural heritage. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising in-depth interviews and ethnographic observations among Senegalese community members. Data analysis involves thematic coding to identify recurring themes and patterns within oral traditions. A key finding is the prevalence of traditional narratives that often address ancestral history, religious beliefs, and social norms, with approximately half of the respondents citing these as central elements in their oral tradition. Oral traditions not only reflect but also shape the cultural identity and values of Senegalese communities. This study underscores the importance of preserving these narratives for educational and heritage purposes. Further research should focus on documenting and archiving existing oral traditions to ensure they are accessible to future generations, while also integrating digital platforms to reach wider audiences.

Keywords: *African Geography, Oral History, Ethnography, Folklore, Cultural Heritage, Anthropology, Narratology*

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