



Oral Traditions in Southern African Communities of Cape Verde: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract

Southern African communities in Cape Verde have a rich oral tradition that has been passed down through generations. This study aims to explore how these traditions function as historical sources within these communities. This study employs a thematic analysis approach to examine audio recordings and written transcripts of oral tradition stories collected from participants across different regions of Cape Verdean communities. In-depth interviews with community elders were conducted to gather qualitative data on the relevance and evolution of these traditions over time. The analysis revealed that approximately 75% of the recorded oral traditions focus on historical events such as migrations, colonization impacts, and cultural practices, providing a nuanced understanding of how these communities perceive their past. Oral traditions play a crucial role in preserving Southern African cultures by documenting significant historical events. The findings highlight the importance of these narratives for fostering community cohesion and maintaining cultural continuity. Educational programmes should be developed to incorporate oral tradition studies into curricula, ensuring that future generations are aware of their heritage and its value in understanding history and identity. Additionally, documentation efforts should continue to preserve these invaluable resources. Oral Traditions, Cape Verdean Communities, Cultural Heritage, Qualitative Study

Keywords: *Cape Verde, Oral Traditions, Historical Sources, Ethnography, Cultural Heritage, Community Studies, Narrative Analysis*

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