



## Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities: An Interdisciplinary Survey Research

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### Abstract

Oral traditions play a significant role in preserving historical narratives within Southern African communities, particularly in South Africa. These traditional stories are often passed down through generations and serve as vital sources of information about past events, cultural practices, and social structures. The methodology involves a structured questionnaire distributed among participants from diverse communities across South Africa. Qualitative analysis is employed to interpret the responses, highlighting common themes and patterns within the oral traditions shared by respondents. A notable finding suggests that over half of the sampled community members believe their oral traditions have influenced how they understand their historical context, indicating a strong connection between these narratives and current societal perceptions. Oral traditions are recognised as important historical sources within Southern African communities. The survey results underscore the significance of these traditional accounts in shaping contemporary communal identity and understanding. Further interdisciplinary research is recommended to validate the findings, including comparative studies with other regions and methodologies such as oral history workshops for enhanced accuracy and reliability of data collection.

**Keywords:** *Southern, Oral, Traditions, Narratives, Ethnography, Heritage, Methodology*

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