



Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities of Ethiopia: A Policy Analysis

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Abstract

Southern African communities in Ethiopia have a rich tradition of oral storytelling that has been passed down through generations. A qualitative approach was employed, involving interviews with community elders and analysis of existing oral tradition records. Themes such as land ownership disputes and migration patterns were identified in the collected stories, indicating a significant role in historical documentation. Oral traditions are valuable for understanding the history and culture of these communities, warranting their preservation through policy measures. Establishment of oral tradition archives and educational programmes to promote their study should be prioritised by policymakers.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Oral Traditions, Historiography, Ethnography, Community Studies, Textual Analysis, Narrative History*

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