



# Translating African Literature in Ethiopia: Challenges and Strategies

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## Abstract

Translating African literature into global languages poses significant challenges due to cultural nuances and linguistic differences. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with translators and focus group discussions among Ethiopian literary professionals. Data was analysed using thematic analysis. Translators reported that maintaining the original author's tone and style while ensuring readability for non-native speakers is particularly challenging. There is a strong preference for preserving cultural specificity in translations, which can sometimes conflict with global audience expectations of universality. Despite these challenges, there is growing awareness among translators about the importance of balancing fidelity to the original text with accessibility for diverse audiences. Developing culturally sensitive training programmes and fostering dialogue between African writers and translators could enhance translation quality and cultural understanding. Ethiopia, Translation Challenges, Cultural Specificity, Linguistic Differences

**Keywords:** *African diaspora, cultural translation, hermeneutics, oral tradition, postcolonial theory, qualitative methods, transculturation*

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