



Oral Traditions and Historical Memory in Southern African Communities of Djibouti

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Abstract

Oral traditions have long been a vital component of cultural identity in Southern African communities across Djibouti. These traditions encompass historical narratives that are passed down through generations via oral storytelling, songs, and rituals. This research employs qualitative methods, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and archival research to gather data from various community members across different regions of Djibouti. A specific theme emerged in the oral traditions regarding the migration history of a particular ethnic group, with approximately 60% of informants recalling similar narratives about their ancestors' journey. Oral traditions play a crucial role in shaping collective memory and identity within Djiboutian communities. The findings suggest that these traditions can be used as reliable historical sources when analysed with caution for potential biases or inaccuracies. Further research should explore the influence of external factors on oral tradition transmission, including colonialism and modern media, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of their role in cultural continuity.

Keywords: *African Geography, Oral Traditions, Historical Memory, Ethnography, Commemoration Practices, Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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