



Translating African Literature in Congo: Challenges and Strategies

Catherine Jones¹, Yvonne Nkunda¹, Hilary Bradshaw-Williams², Amina MBowala^{3,4}

¹ Protestant University in Congo

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Université Catholique du Congo

³ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Protestant University in Congo

⁴ Université Catholique du Congo

Published: 20 November 2001 | **Received:** 13 August 2001 | **Accepted:** 07 October 2001

Correspondence: cjones@yahoo.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18735281](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18735281)

Author notes

Catherine Jones is affiliated with Protestant University in Congo and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Yvonne Nkunda is affiliated with Protestant University in Congo and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Hilary Bradshaw-Williams is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Université Catholique du Congo and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Amina MBowala is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Protestant University in Congo and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Translation of African literature is crucial for promoting cultural understanding globally, with significant implications in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The research employs a qualitative approach involving interviews with translators, focus group discussions with literary scholars, and document analysis of translation materials from Congo's cultural sector. Translators in the DRC reported encountering significant difficulties such as maintaining fidelity to the original text while adapting for global audiences, particularly regarding cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions. A notable finding is that 70% of translators use a combination of source language and target language elements to bridge these gaps. Despite challenges, there are effective strategies being developed by the DRC's literary community to enhance the accessibility and appreciation of African literature. Policy makers should prioritise supporting research into translation techniques that can promote cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. Universities should include courses on translation studies in their curricula.

Keywords: *Congo, Translation Studies, Cultural Preservation, Discourse Analysis, Hermeneutics, Multilingualism, Postcolonial Theory*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge