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Eve Nabulya is a Lecturer in the Department of Literature at Makerere University, Uganda. She holds a PhD in English from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Her research is centred around understanding how literature negotiates and articulates her philosophical and practicable contribution to development. She is particularly interested in the interface between literature and discourses of ecology and the natural environment (ecocriticism) and literature and rhetoric. Her other interests include Literary Theory, African Drama, 20th Century Theatre, Shakespearean Drama and Oral Literature.

Interrogating Indigenous Environmental Wisdom in Luganda and Lusoga Oral Narratives

Abstract

This research sets out to interrogate the environmental consciousness underlying selected oral tales among the Baganda and Basoga. It aims at identifying, analysing and documenting folk tales which talk to current environmental issues in Uganda. It is grounded in the Bakhtinian notion of artistic answerability, which explores the socio-political function of literature, and is further informed by environmental literary theories. It seeks to bring the emergent ideas in oral literature into conversation with current debates in environmental related discourse. This study takes interest in oral creative narratives transmitted from one generation to another by word of mouth, among rural communities in the areas around Lake Victoria to document culturally cherished elements of the natural landscape such as big trees, rocks forests and rivers that attest to a rich communal environmental consciousness.