**ABSTRACT**

1. **ENGLISH**

African oral tradition, a vibrant tapestry of stories, myths, and legends, is a dynamic force that transcends time, preserving history and cultural values. This presentation embarks on a journey through the heart of African culture, highlighting the profound importance of oral tradition. In a world dominated by written records and digital media, oral tradition remains a living treasure trove, serving as a bridge between the past and the present. Key features of oral tradition include its dynamic and living nature, the transmission of knowledge, and its cultural relevance. Storytelling, at the core of oral tradition, is the heartbeat of African culture. These stories transmit knowledge, convey moral values, and preserve the cultural memory of diverse African communities. Myths and legends play a pivotal role in defining cultural identity and conveying spiritual or religious beliefs.

Oral tradition functions as a powerful means of cultural preservation. Griots, oral historians, and praise singers are the memory keepers of their communities, passing down knowledge through the spoken word, ensuring the continuity of customs and traditions. Yet, oral tradition faces challenges in a rapidly changing world. Globalization, language shifts, and urbanization can pose threats to this ancient practice. Communities respond with creative adaptations, utilizing modern media, revitalizing indigenous languages, and celebrating their traditions through cultural festivals. Personal stories and testimonies provide firsthand insights into the transformative influence of oral tradition. Individuals connect with their cultural roots, preserve ancestral wisdom, find empowerment through storytelling, and build resilience when facing adversity. Through storytelling, communities find strength and unity, learning from the past and inspiring future generations. African oral tradition is a living testament to the resilience of cultures and the enduring power of stories. This exploration concludes with a reminder that these stories are bridges connecting the past, the present, and the future. African oral tradition is a living legacy, a source of inspiration, empowerment, and unity, and a profound testament to the human experience.

**2.KISWAHILI**

Utamaduni wa Kiafrika unaosemwa kwa mdomo, ambao ni mkusanyo wenye nguvu wa hadithi, hekaya, na hekaya, ni kani yenye nguvu ambayo huendelea kwa muda mrefu, ikihifadhi historia na maadili ya kitamaduni. Maonyesho haya yanaanza safari kupitia moyo wa utamaduni wa Kiafrika, ikiangazia umuhimu mkubwa wa mapokeo ya mdomo. Katika ulimwengu unaodhibitiwa na rekodi zilizoandikwa na vyombo vya habari vya dijiti, mapokeo ya mdomo bado ni hazina iliyo hai, ambayo hutumika kama daraja kati ya zamani na za sasa. Sifa kuu za mapokeo ya mdomo ni pamoja na asili yake ya nguvu na hai, usambazaji wa maarifa, na umuhimu wake wa kitamaduni. Kusimulia hadithi, katika msingi wa mila ya mdomo, ni moyo wa utamaduni wa Kiafrika. Hadithi hizo hutoa ujuzi, hufundisha maadili, na kuhifadhi kumbukumbu za kitamaduni za jamii mbalimbali za Kiafrika.

Hadithi na hekaya hutimiza fungu muhimu katika kufafanua utambulisho wa kitamaduni na kupitisha itikadi za kiroho au za kidini. Utamaduni wa mdomo ni njia yenye nguvu ya kuhifadhi utamaduni. Waandishi wa habari, wanahistoria wa mdomo, na waimbaji wa zaburi ndio wanaotunza kumbukumbu za jumuiya zao, wakipitisha maarifa kupitia neno la mdomo, wakihakikisha mwendelezo wa desturi na mapokeo. Hata hivyo, mapokeo ya mdomo hukabili magumu katika ulimwengu unaobadilika haraka. Utandawazi, mabadiliko ya lugha, na kuenea kwa majiji kunaweza kuhatarisha zoea hilo la kale. Jamii huitikia kwa njia ya ubunifu, kutumia vyombo vya habari vya kisasa, kuimarisha lugha za asili, na kusherehekea mila zao kupitia sherehe za kitamaduni. Masimulizi ya kibinafsi na ushuhuda hutoa ufahamu wa moja kwa moja juu ya uvutano wenye kubadili wa mapokeo ya mdomo. Watu huungana na mizizi yao ya kitamaduni, huhifadhi hekima ya mababu, hupata nguvu kupitia hadithi, na kujenga uthabiti wakati wa kukabiliwa na shida. Kupitia hadithi, jamii hupata nguvu na umoja, kujifunza kutoka zamani na kuhamasisha vizazi vijavyo. Utamaduni wa mdomo wa Kiafrika ni ushuhuda hai wa utamaduni wenye uvumilivu na nguvu ya kudumu ya hadithi. Uchunguzi huu unaisha kwa ukumbusho kwamba hadithi hizi ni madaraja yanayounganisha zamani, sasa, na siku zijazo. Utamaduni wa mdomo wa Kiafrika ni urithi ulio hai, chanzo cha msukumo, nguvu, na umoja, na ushuhuda wa kina wa uzoefu wa kibinadamu.