UNL Spring 2023 Digital Humanities Class One More Voice Extension Project

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OMV Exploration 1: Large Data Sets

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The texts I have chosen for this analysis are broadly interrelated. There are two main themes I wanted to extract from the sources to synthesize: the experiences of women and the experiences of indigenous converts. I am particularly interested in how these themes overlap where I can examine the experiences of indigenous women who have converted to Christianity. I do expand this theme to include a writer who converted to Christianity and educated at a missionary school who deconverts and begins practicing the religion that was common to the area before the missionaries came. I think this perspective helps provide a nuanced understanding of the effect of Christianity conversions.

These pieces are geographically related, each of them is from Africa. I considered expanding to other regions and colonization efforts, but ultimately decided that because the continent of Africa is so vast, and the experiences of African writers are not monolithic.

The recovered texts I am utilizing are particularly connected. There are pieces I have chosen that are written by family members. The themes of these related experiences focus on a mother, Nosutu, the Mother of Soga, who was a convert to Christianity and mother of someone who seems to be important to garnering more converts to Christianity in the region. I think there is a potential for these texts to inform two perspectives of conversion, the experience of a mother, and the experience of her child, an evangelist, writing about the mother’s conversion.

Some of the works are focused on the Indigenous converts as missionaries. Two missionary trips of focus are a trip down the Niger River and an expedition to find (maybe rescue) Dr. David Livingston, an evangelist traveling central Africa gaining converts and mapping the terrain. These are included as they may help provide a nuanced perspective to the knowledge we have as how colonization and conversion actually affected people rather than relying on the view of the colonizer.

Works Cited in Chicago Style (Chatgtp transformed the MLA citations to Chicago)

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