



**to EMS National
Meeting- *Sept. 18, 2021***

Orality in African Context: Learning Style & Pedagogy

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What went wrong?: First Bible Study upon graduation from Seminary



Source of picture: <https://gloriasgrace.wordpress.com/2016/10/26/the-sleeping-church/>



Source of image: <https://www.pridesibiya.com/2017/06/7-reasons-why-people-sleep-in-church.html>

VIDEO OF A SONG



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ORALITY IN AFRICAN CONTEXT: LEARNING STYLE & PEDAGOGY

Prof. Moussa BONGOYOK

Objectives and plan

- **OBJECTIVES**

- *Stress the importance of orality in Africa*
- *Make suggestions for contextual teaching methods that take orality into consideration*

- **PLAN**

- **Introduction**

- **I. What is orality?**

- **II. Why is it important in the African context?**

- **III. How does it work?**

- **IV. What do we learn from this for education in Africa?**

- **Conclusion**

I. What is Orality?

Oxford English Dictionary

- **“the quality of being oral or orally communicated”**
- **“preference for or tendency to use spoken forms of language”**

Orality Classification Definitions

- q "Oral Communicators" — Those who depend mostly on verbal, nonprint means to learn, to communicate with others, to express themselves, to celebrate their culture and for entertainment.

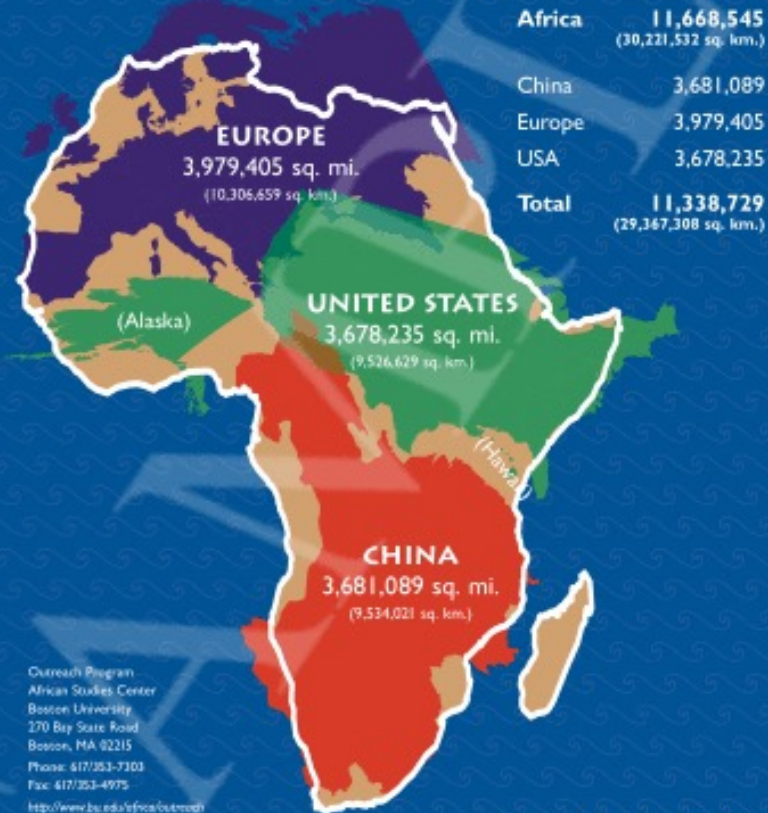
Characteristics of an Oral Culture

- q How they process information:
 - Learn by hearing
 - Learn by observing and imitating, by hearing and repeating
 - Talk about events and people, not abstract ideas
 - Use stories of human action to store information
 - Memorize past information, value tradition

II. Why is it important in the African Context?

HOW BIG IS AFRICA?

Approximate Area in Square Miles

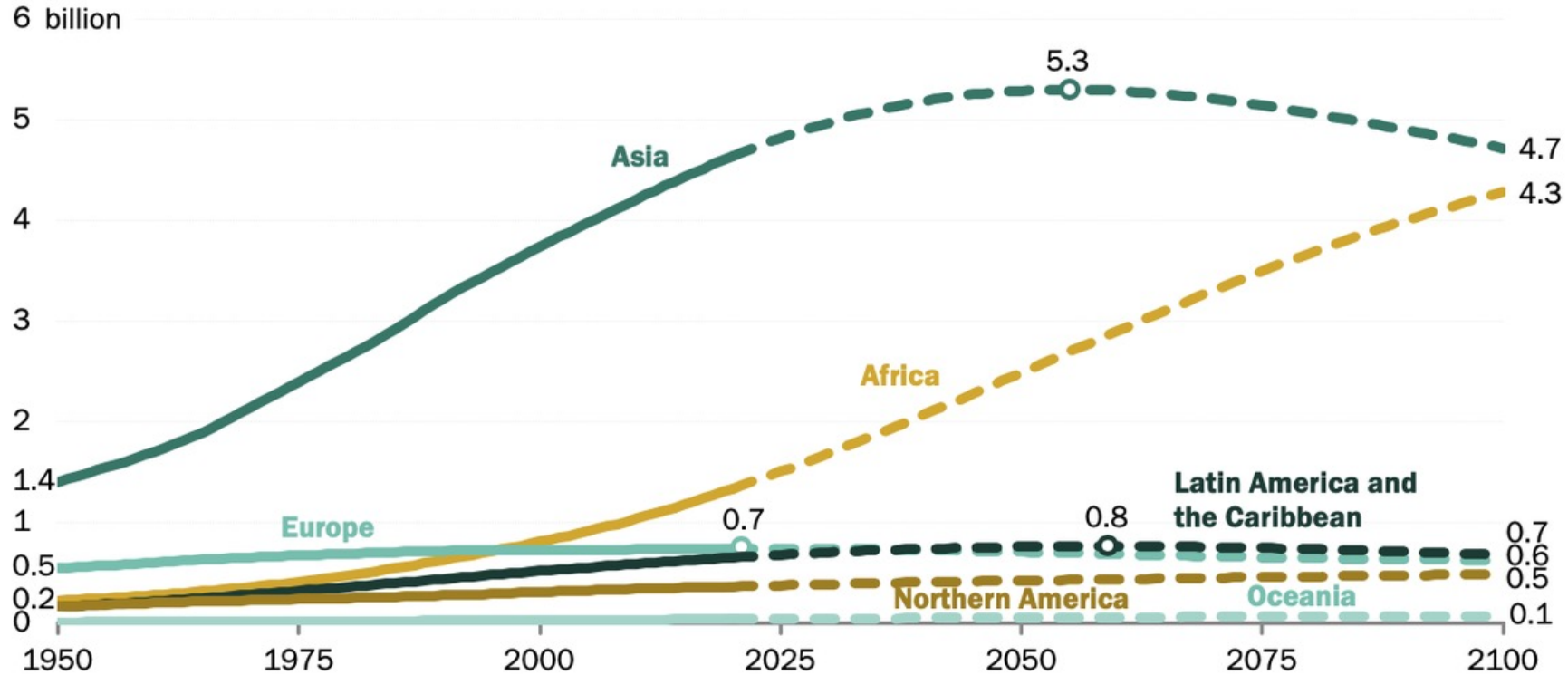


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<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/>
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Mollweide Equal Area Projection

Population growth in Africa is projected to remain strong throughout this century

Population by region, in billions

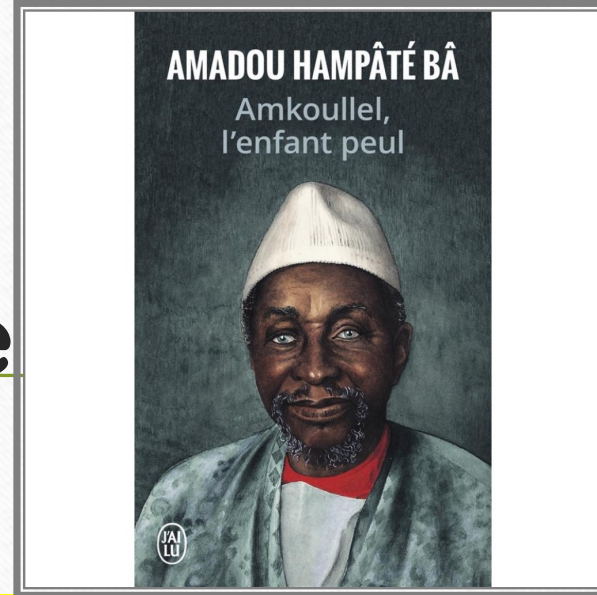


Note: Data labels show projected peak population for each region: Europe (2021), Asia (2055) and Latin America and the Caribbean (2058). Regions follow United Nations definitions and may differ from other Pew Research Center reports.

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World Population Prospects 2019."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- **“En Afrique, quand un vieillard meurt, c’est une bibliothèque qui brûle.”**



- **"In Africa, an old man who dies is a library that burns"**

- Amadou Hâmpaté Bâ

- **“The African oral tradition distills the essences of human experiences, shaping them into memorable, readily retrievable images of broad applicability with an extraordinary potential for eliciting emotional response.”**

Harold Scheub

- African Studies Review Vol. 28, No. 2/3 (Jun. - Sep., 1985), pp. 1-72 (72 pages)

III. How does it work?

Example of the Mafa people group

Kud mbelawa a hada a hwad.

(N'gelegèdma Mafa)

Les larmes de l'orphelin coulent dans le ventre.

(Proverbe Mafa-French translation)

The tears of the orphan run inside.

(Mafa Proverb- English translation)

Commented by Moussa Bongoyok

Source: <https://contributionsafricaines.com/2009/10/05/133/>

Oral Communication in Mafa Culture

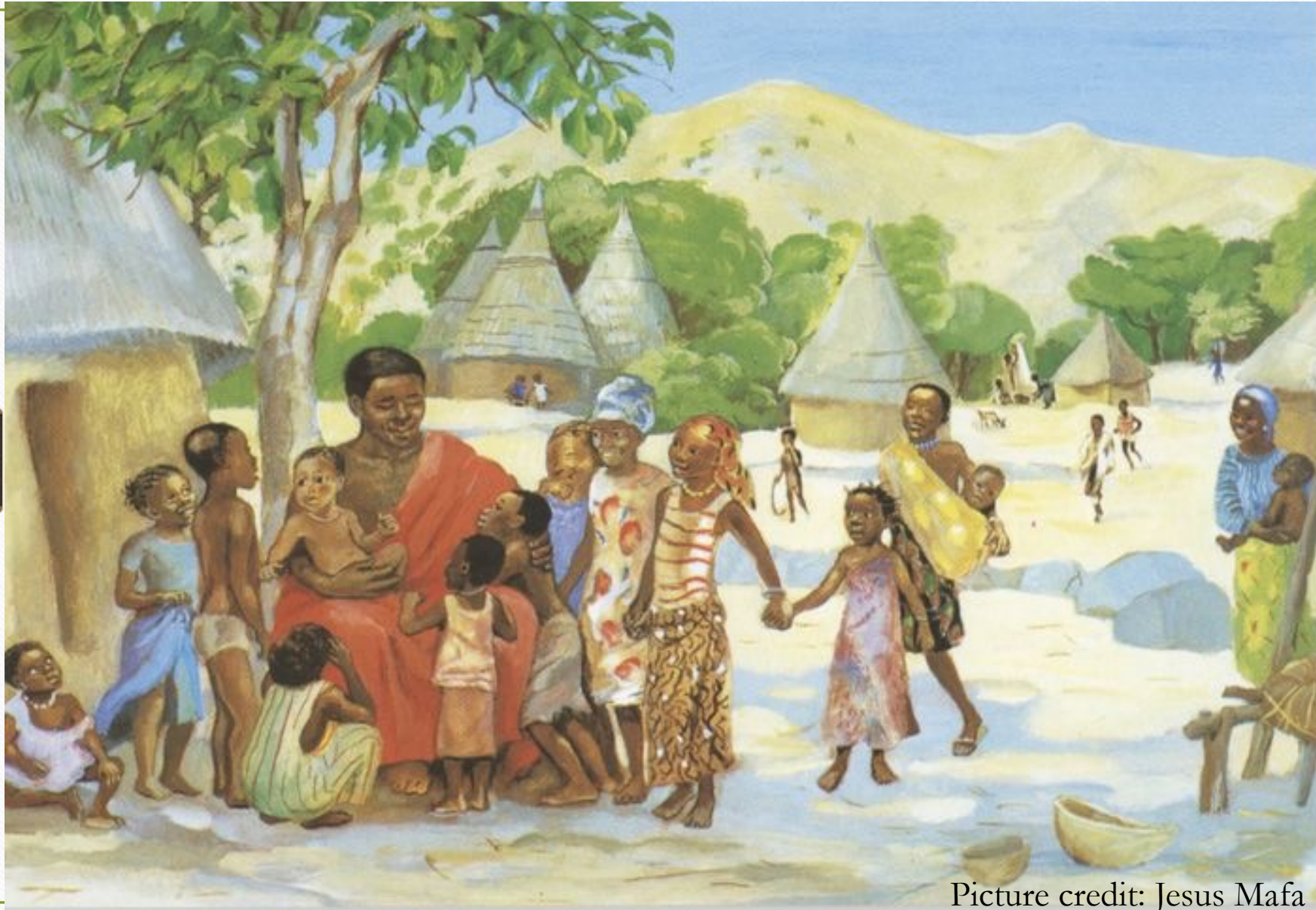
- **Proverbs**
 - **Riddles**
 - **Folk Tales**
 - **Poems**
 - **Songs and dance: Ndalinga, Houdok, Maray**
 - **Other songs : dimesh n'shidè, ganzavar,**
- dimesh m'per lak...**
 - **Early mornings conversations**
 - **Acting/Drama (Ex. Real story: A lazy man in the community)**
 - **Talk under the tree**
 - **Non-verbal communication**

- What would Jesus

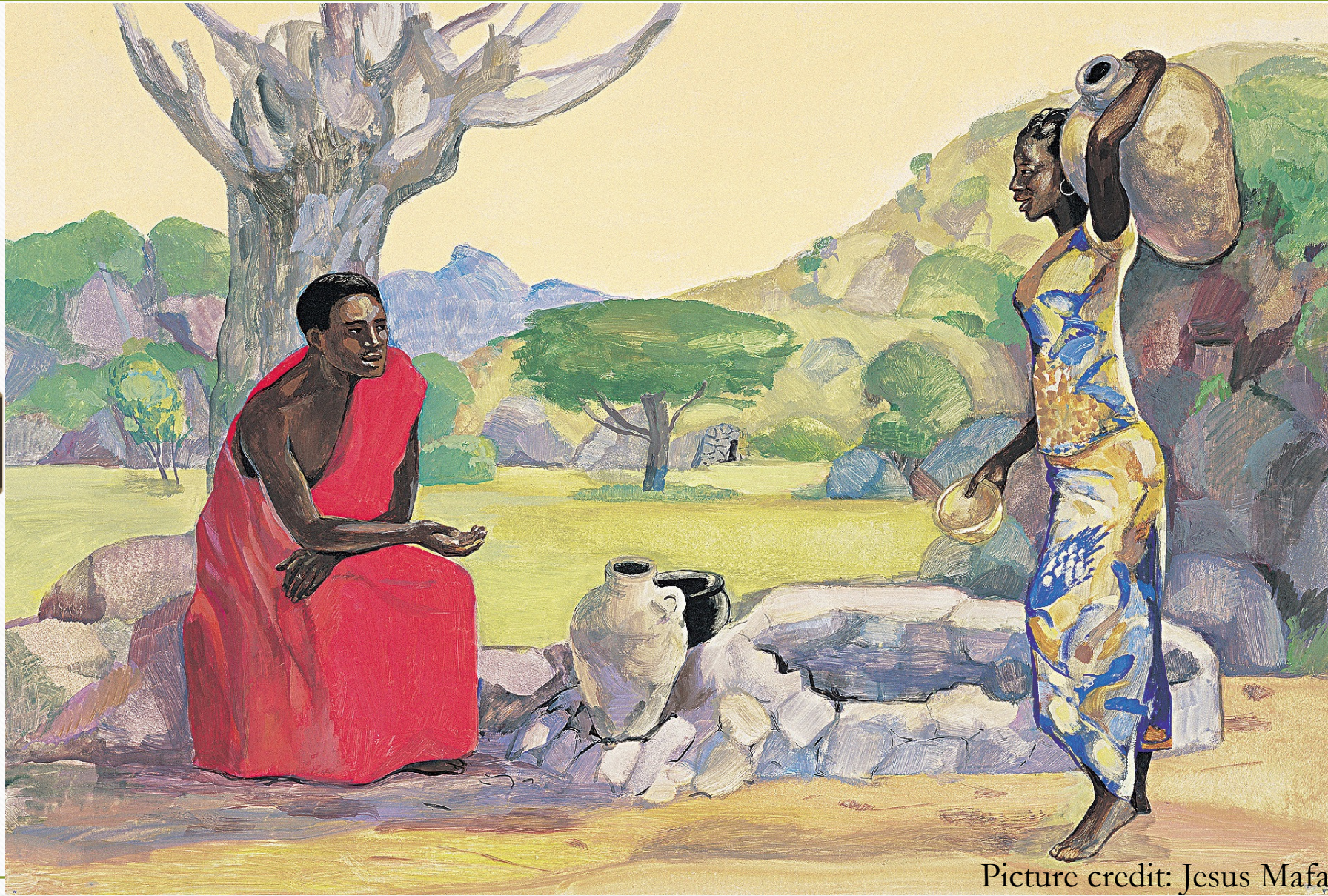
do if He did his

earthly ministry in

any part of Africa?



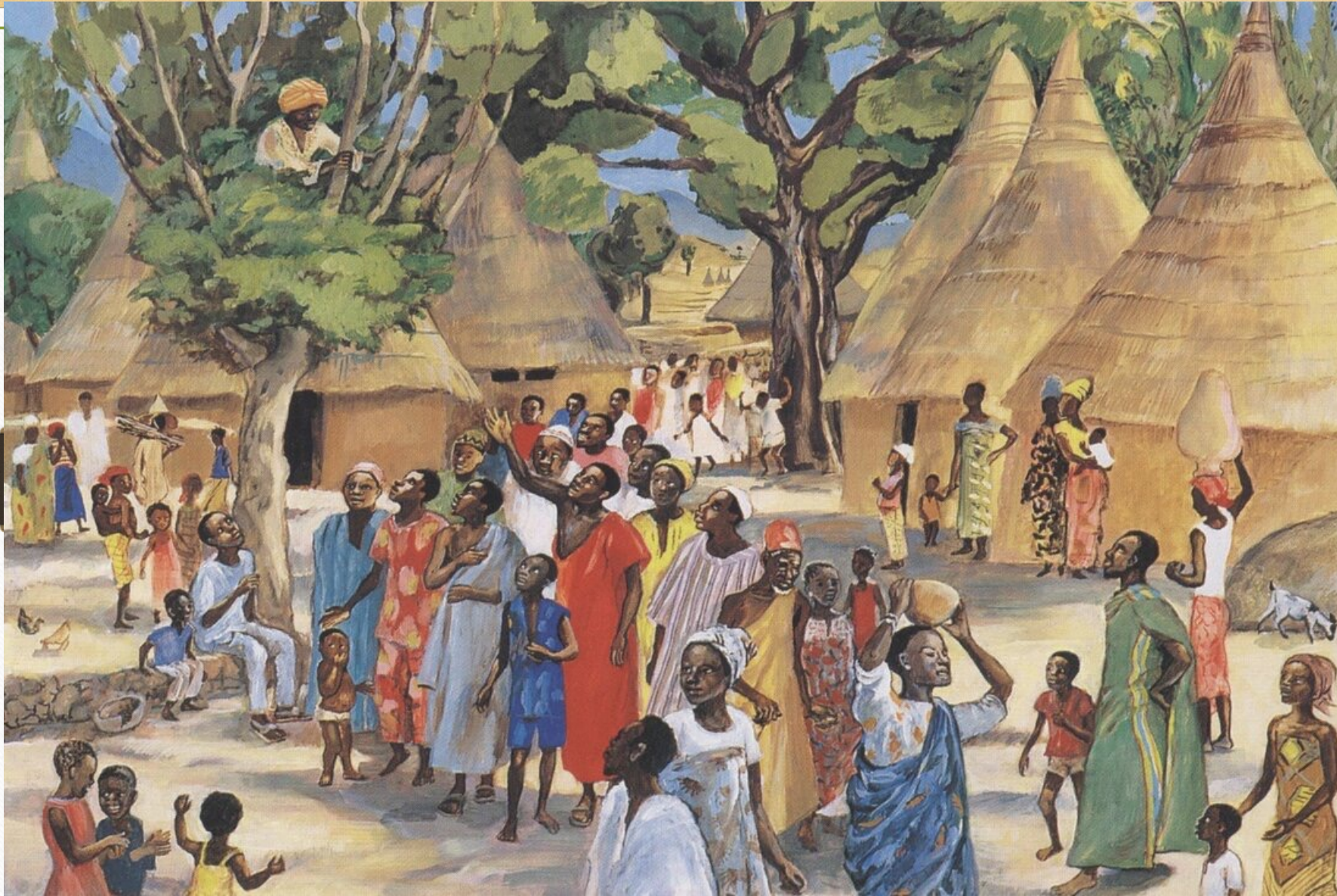
Picture credit: Jesus Mafa



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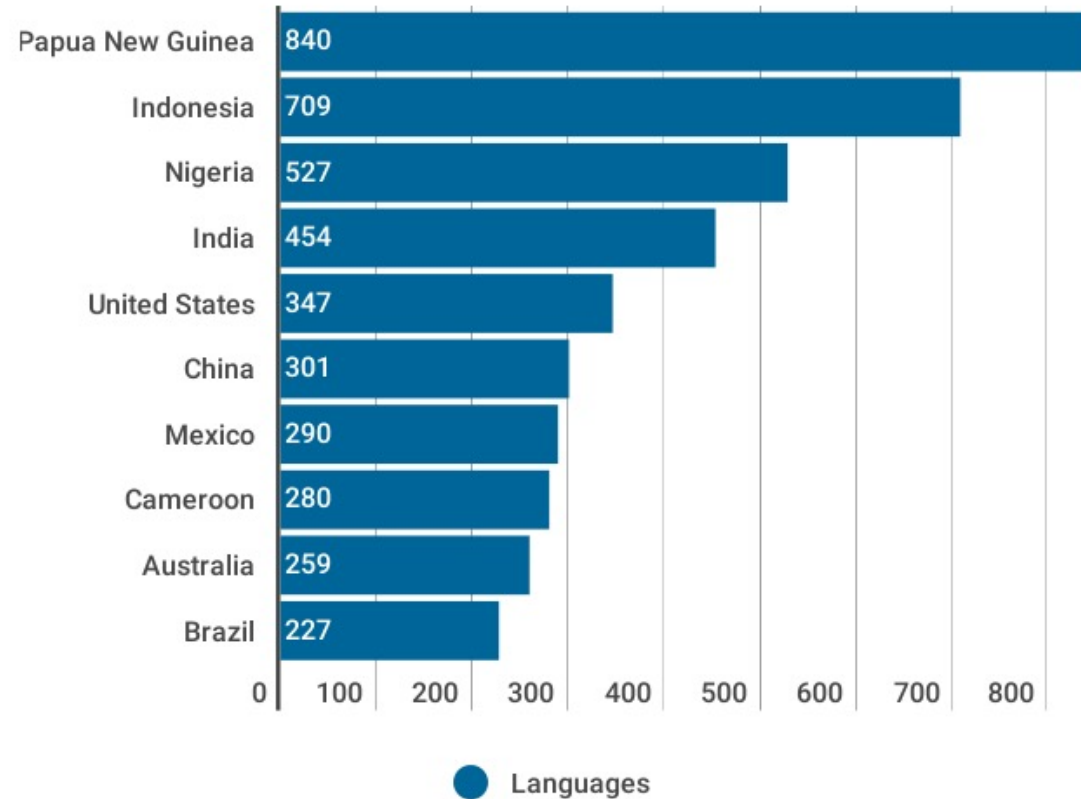
Picture credit: Jesus Mafa

**IV. What do we learn
from this for
education in Africa?**

7,139 languages are spoken today

<https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/how-many-languages>

Countries with the most languages



20 Most Spoken Languages in the World in 2021



QUI A LA TÊTE DE L'ÂNE?

Who has the donkey's head?





Une langue contient non seulement une forme d'éducation, de culture, mais aussi des éléments constitutifs d'une société : gestion des émotions, code de politesse.

(Bernard Werber)

“A language contains not only a form of education, culture, but also constituent elements of a society: management of emotions, code of politeness.”

QQ citations



Language and culture cannot be separated. Language is vital to understanding our unique cultural perspectives. Language is a tool that is used to explore and experience our cultures and the perspectives that are embedded in our cultures.

— *Buffy Sainte-Marie* —

AZ QUOTES

“Theological education from Westerners in Africa should not be presented in English, French, or Portuguese.¹ This is for many reasons;

- **- the categories used in these languages are not familiar to Africa,**
- **- philosophical and other presuppositions underlying these languages tend to be obscure,**
- **- these languages function in a secular way that is foundationally ‘anti-religious’,**
- **- knowledge of these languages providing openings into lucrative contexts results in their being abused by fortune-seekers and in high levels of temptation to being overcome by ‘love of this world’,**
- **- teachers who use these languages, because they do not learn how indigenous discourse functions, cannot develop intimate learning relationships with African Christian communities.”**

Story: Chicks, mother hen and Ostrich egg



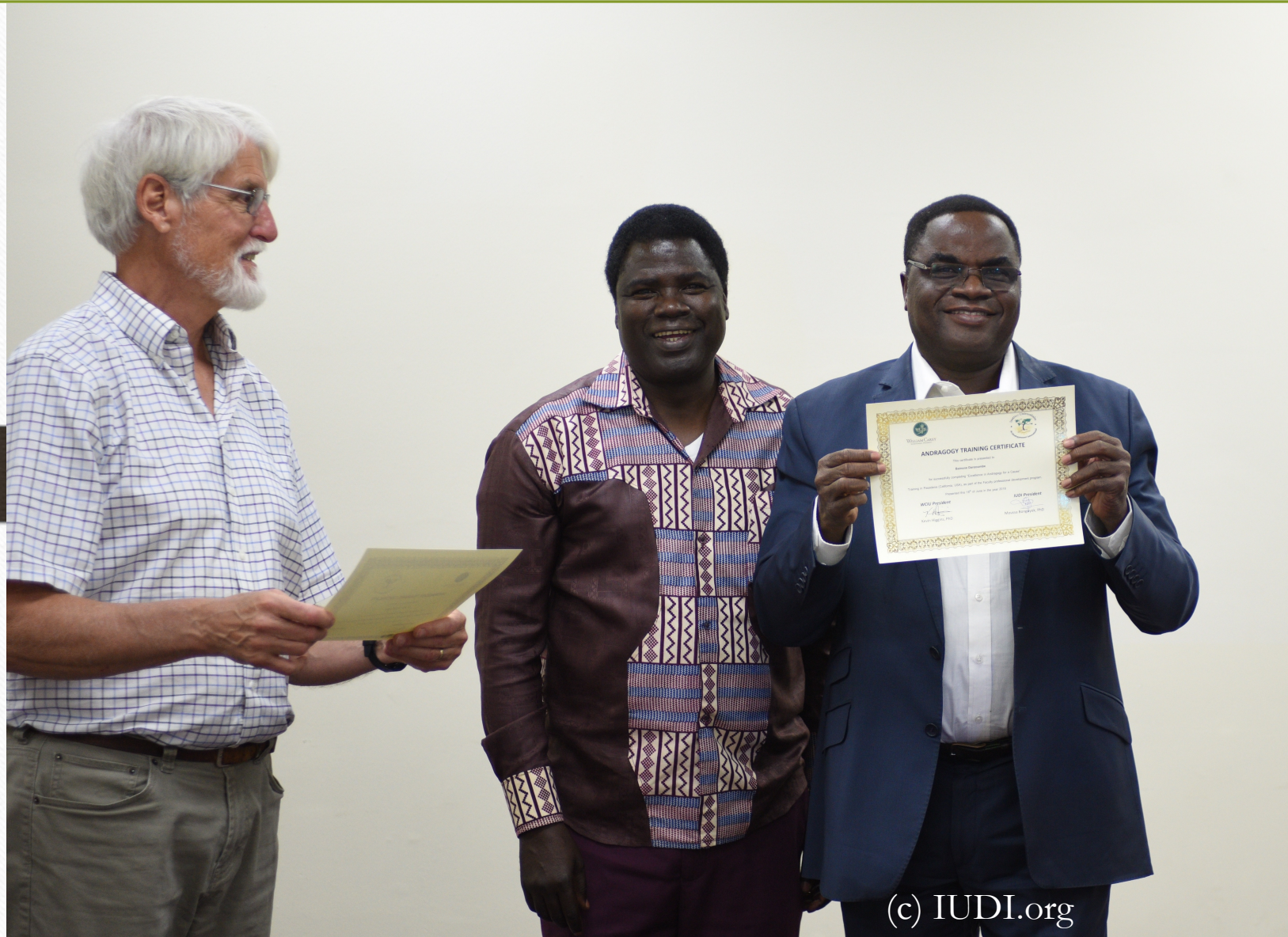
- Call deserves attention**
- No need to be radical in the contemporary interconnected world**
- But intentional valorization of African languages and cultures needed**
- Include courses on African languages, culture and orality in the curricula of schools at all levels**



- Avoid to fight the Goliath of education with Saul's foreign garments

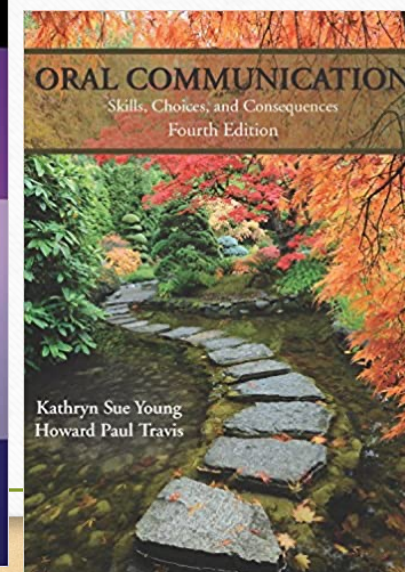
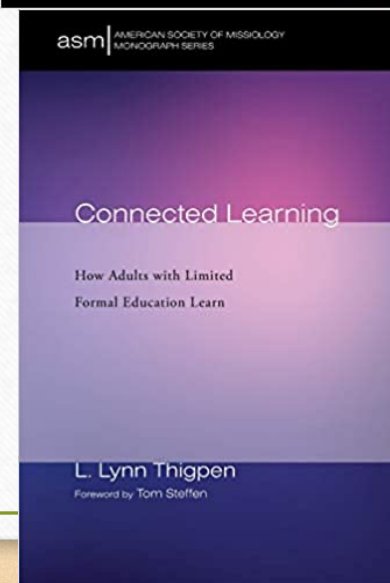
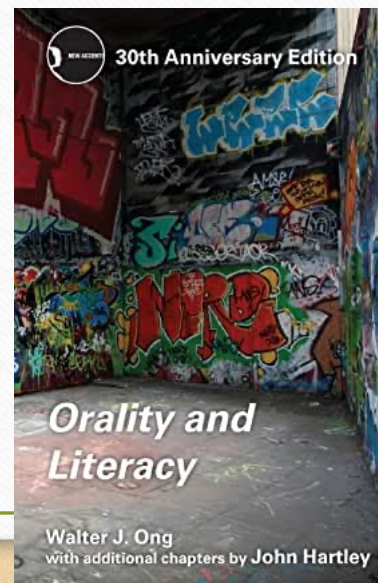
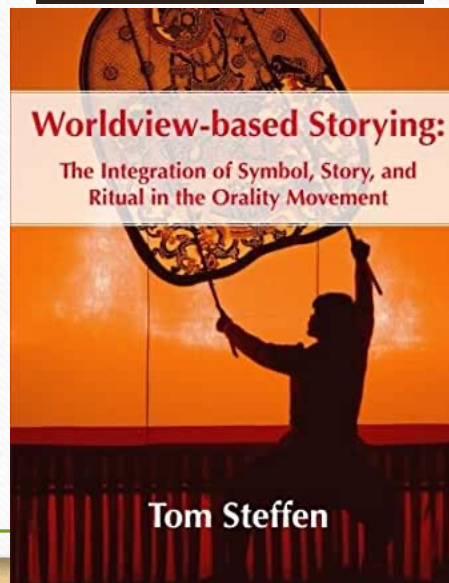
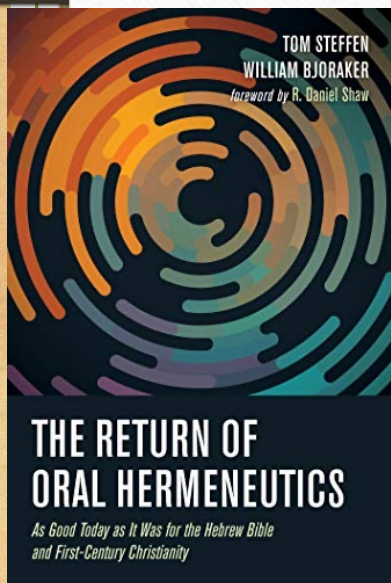
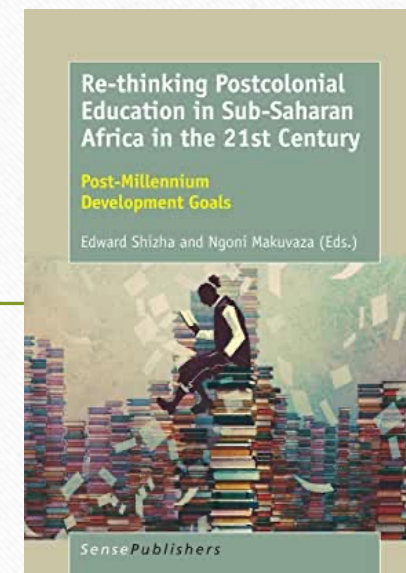
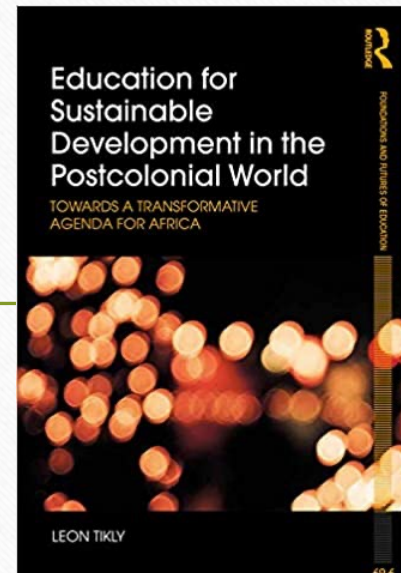
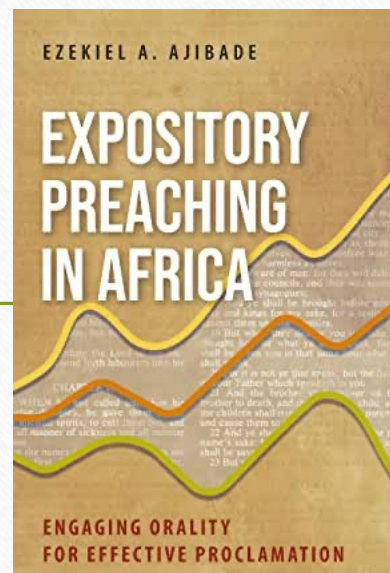
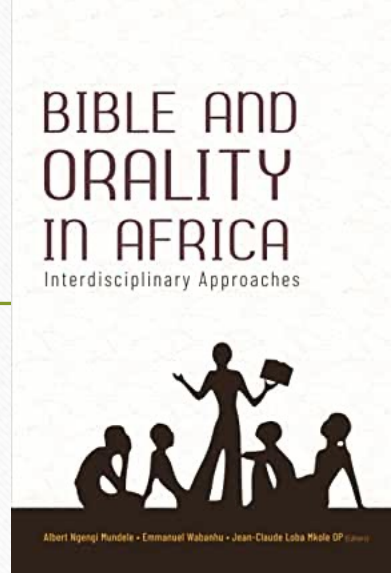
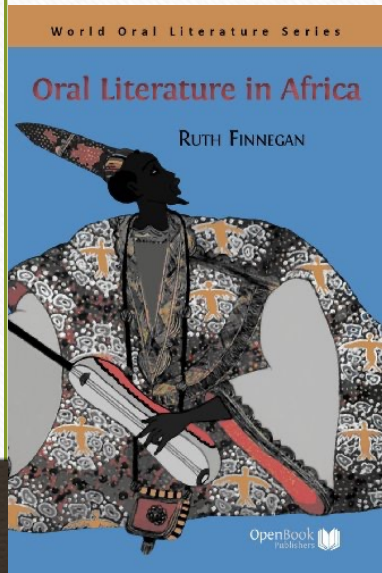
- Reject the worse type of colonization: colonization of the mind

- Strategize for the future of African languages, cultures and educational system



(c) IUDI.org

BIBLIOGRAPHY- Recommended books



CONCLUSION



*“To a andaa haa njahta, andu
diga toy iwda”*

If you don't know where you
are going, remember where
you come from.

SOSAY! THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

