

Emerging Trends in Oral Traditions (Literature) and Indigenous Languages Research in Kenya

Date and time:

Tue, 2013-05-21 16:53

Location / Venue:

A.I.C. Tot Guest House, Elgeyo Marakwet County

Wednesday-Saturday 21-25 May 2013

Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) in collaboration with the Department of Literature, University of Nairobi, recently held a four-day workshop in Tot, Elgeyo Marakwet County. The workshop was attended by masters and doctoral students, lecturers, researchers, and oral artists/performers in relevant fields. It aimed at taking stock of emerging trends in oral traditions/literature and indigenous languages research especially in Kenya. The workshop projects suggested ways of enhancing such kind of scholarly engagements.

The workshop was part of a core KOLA programme that is designed to train budding scholars in Eastern African universities on emerging trends in oral literature and folklore research. KOLA collaborates with like-minded organizations and institutions to facilitate the programme. During the workshop, participants took part in a mock fieldwork which not only provided an opportunity for a practical experience in related researches but provided a moment of experiencing the rich cultural landscape of the Marakwet and the Pokot communities.

The workshop papers covered the general realm of oral traditions/ literature and indigenous languages along the following thematic areas:

- Emergent methods and methodology in oral traditions/ literature and indigenous languages inquiry
- Consent, copyright, and ethics in related researches
- Oral performance, oral testimony, and oral history research
- Cyberspace and technology-mediated oralities
- New genres of oral traditions/ literature
- Inter-relationship of disciplines with respect to oral traditions/ literature and indigenous languages research
- Peace and national dialogue through oral traditions/ literature and indigenous languages

In total there were 48 participants from University of Nairobi, Moi University, Kenyatta University, University of Kabianga, Catholic University and Laikipia University.