



STORY TELLING AS A STRATEGY FOR PEACEBUILDING: TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING AMONG LOWER-LEVEL POLITICAL LEADERS IN UGANDA

Eve Nabulya, PhD Makerere University, Uganda

Abstract

This paper uses the case of Mpigi district of Uganda to illustrate that traditional storytelling not only creates a neutral contact space for people to meet and bond, but it also maximizes the negotiation of identities and the alleviation of anxieties and insecurities through its formal properties.

Objectives

- 1 To describe the cleavages that exist amongst lower-level political leaders in Mpigi District.
- 2 To identify the properties of traditional storytelling that support negotiation and power balance in the case of conflicting identities

Methodology

The researcher conducted contact sessions in the form of storytelling meetings at each of the eight Sub counties of Mpigi District. Qualitative data was collected through in-depth interviews, questionnaires, participant observation and focus group discussions and examined through qualitative thematic analysis.



Key Findings and Conclusion

Political, gender-based, age-based and ethnic cleavages exist. Yet political cleavages, initially assumed to be deepest, are subordinated to age-based and gender-based cleavages in that order.

Traditional story telling has the advantages of being culturally rooted, allowing participatory performance, veiling personal opinions and enabling participatory meaning making. All these properties are not found with personal story telling, which projects traditional storytelling as the better strategy

Selected References

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