

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES**

**ENGLISH AND LITERATURE IN ENGLISH STUDIES**

**ORAL LITERACY FORMS IN T. WANGUSA'S UPON THIS  
MOUNTAIN AND CHINUA ACHEBE'S THINGS FALL APART**

**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I **GERALDINE TONGOI** do hereby declare that this is my original work and has never been presented to any University or institution for any award of a Degree.

**Signature**..... **Date**.....

## **APPROVAL**

This final research proposal has been submitted to the Faculty of Science and education for examination with approval of my supervisor.

**SUPERVISOR:** Ms. KWAGALA OLIVIA

Signature.....

Date...../...../.....

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate my final year research work to my family and many friends. A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents, Mr. Christopher Tongoi and Ms. kilande Margaret Tongoi whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity ring in my ears. My sisters Bennita, Bridget and Maureen who have never left my side and are very special.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Oral literacy forms as used in the novels “Upon This Mountain” and “things fall apart” is a very important vehicle of communication. These oral literacy forms include proverbs, riddles, chants, folksongs, folktales. Oral literacy forms are a platform of channeling knowledge, beliefs, norms and values of a society. The purpose of this research is to provide information on how the oral literary forms develop the themes in the novels and the aesthetic validity of the oral literacy forms as used in the two novels. Therefore, oral literacy forms serve to communicate ideas, emotions, beliefs and appreciation of life. Literature through oral literacy forms like proverbs, folktales, songs, riddles, legends, myths, chants and tongue- twisters provides meaningful experience and meaning to the lives of the people in the Gishu society and Igbo society.

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This research looks at the oral literary forms in *Upon This Mountain* by Timothy Wangusa and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

Oral literature is a broad term which may include ritual texts, curative chants, epic poems, musical genres, folktales, creation tales, songs, myths, spells, legends, proverbs, riddles, tongue twisters, word games, recitations, life histories or historical narratives. Most simply oral literature refers to any form of verbal art which is transmitted orally or delivered by word of mouth.

Timothy Wangusa is an ethnic Mumasaba born in Bugisu in Eastern Uganda in 1942. He is both a novelist and well published poet with favourite themes and subjects being tradition, nature, history, politics and spiritual arena. After studying English at Makerere University, he later furthered his studies at the University of Leeds. Wangusa took appointment at Makerere University in 1969, was promoted to full professor in 1981, and also served as Head of Department and dean of Faculty of Arts. He was the chairman of Uganda writers' association and founder president of international PEN Uganda.

Set around Mt. Elgon in Eastern Uganda, "upon this mountain" by timothy Wangusa was published in 1989 by Heinemann International. It portrays African life in the past colonial era, a time when communities were drawn together through special religious and cultural occasions like baptism and circumcision.

In the novel, Mwambu will climb the mountain where he hopes to touch heaven but his journey from naïve curiosity to adulthood will reveal unexpected contradictions as traditional values collide with western values.

Chinua Achebe was a Nigerian novelist, poet, and critic who is regarded as the dominant figure of modern African literature. His first novel and magnum opus, *Things Fall Apart*, occupies a pivotal place in African literature and remains the most widely studied, translated and read African novel.



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