

Swazi Oral Literature, Eco-culture and Environmental Apocalypse

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KEYWORDS Oral Literature. Eco-culture. Indigenous Knowledge. Swaziland. Environment. Awareness. Ecocriticism

ABSTRACT The main objective of this paper is to show how oral literature is engaged by Swazis with regards to environmental sustainability. It demonstrates the relationship between nature and culture as reflected in Swazi oral literature and how indigenous knowledge embedded in this literature can be used to expand the concepts of Eco literature and Eco criticism. The paper argues that the indigenous environmental expertise among the Swazi people, encapsulated in their oral literature, can serve as a critical resource base for the process of developing a healthy environment. Furthermore, the paper contends that Eco-criticism which is essentially a Western concept can benefit by drawing inspiration from the indigenous knowledge contained in Swazi culture and expressed in their oral literature. The paper concludes by recommending the need to strengthen traditional and customary knowledge and practices by protecting and recognizing the values of such systems in the conservation of biodiversity for sustainable development.