

THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE, MEMORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICAN POETRY

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ABSTRACT

*African Literature is one of the most vibrant and diverse bodies of writing that embodies the harmony between people, culture and nature. It offers profound insights in to sustainable living and collective well- being. African Literature, emerging from centuries of storytelling, rich traditions and deep-rooted history, particularly its poetry, serves as a living archive of memory, preserving ancestral knowledge, cultural values and ecological wisdom. The poets from early to contemporary times, continue to express about the ties between culture and ecology in their works. The anthology *Voices of Africa: A Poetry and Storytelling* (2025), features diverse African voices preserving collective memory, reclaiming silenced histories and celebrating the resilience of the land and its people. This paper is an attempt to analyse selected poems from the anthology through the lens of memory studies. It focuses on how language and memory intertwine and continues to sustain Africa's past while re-examining its future. This paper shows how African poets use language as a medium of remembrance and resistance. It depicts how personal and collective memories sustain a sense of belonging and responsibility toward the environment. It also highlights the role of African Literature in promoting global sustainability and analyse how poetic expression bridges the past and the future in the ongoing discourse between humanity, culture and nature.*

KEYWORDS: Language, Memory, African Poetry, Sustainability, Ecology, Culture.

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