

Review

Representation of disability in Akan discourse

General comment on literature

The paper attempts to discuss the representation of disability in Akan discourse through Akan proverbs and insults. While the study addresses an important topic, the manuscript appears to omit some key works (Moasun and Mfoafo-M'Carthy 2020-Akan, Acquaviva 2020-Swahili, Ebenso et al 2012-Yoruba/Nigeria, Devlieger 1999-Africa) that are closely related to the research focus. For instance, the study "The power of the tongue: Inherent labeling of persons with disabilities in proverbs of the Akan people of Ghana" by (Moasun and Mfoafo-M'Carthy (2020) directly engages with Akan proverbs and disability, yet it is not discussed. Without reviewing this work, it is difficult to appreciate the specific research gap that the current study aims to address. As such, the claim of the research as a novel contribution is not fully substantiated.

Additionally, the manuscript does not reference broader studies on African proverbs related to disability, such as "Frames of Reference in African Proverbs on Disability" by Devlieger (1999) and other African based studies Acquaviva (2020) and Ebenso et al (2012). Incorporating such literature would provide a clearer understanding of the phenomenon in a wider context and help situate the current study within existing scholarship.

I recommend that the author engage with these relevant studies to (i) clearly articulate how the current study builds on or differs from existing research, (2) identify and justify the specific research gap that the study intends to fill and (iii) strengthen the discussion of the study's contribution to knowledge in this area. Addressing these points will significantly enhance the rigor and scholarly grounding of the manuscript.

Theoretical framework

Appropriate

Methodology and data collection

Appropriate

Glossing

I also identified glossing and translation issues. These have been highlighted in the manuscript.

Decision

Accept with major corrections (especially the literature review sections)

References

Main works to consider

Acquaviva G. (2020). Disabling Stereotypes: the Perception and Representation of Disability in Swahili Oral and Written Literature. *Studi Magrebini*, 18(1):1-21

Devlieger PJ (1999) Frames of reference in African proverbs on disability. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education* 46(4): 439–451.

Ebenso, B., Adeyemi, G. Adegoke, A.O,& Emmel. N. (2012). Using indigenous proverbs to understand social knowledge and attitudes to leprosy among the Yoruba of southwest Nigeria *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (December 2012), pp. 208-222 (15 pages) <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42005286>

Moasun,F.Y and Mfoafo-M’Carthy, M. (2020). The power of the tongue: Inherent labeling of persons with disabilities in proverbs of the Akan people of Ghana. *Qualitative social work*, Vol. 20 (4)

Others-worth considering

Kisanji J (1995) Attitudes and beliefs about disability in Tanzania. In: Brian O, Roy M (eds) *Innovations in developing countries for people with disabilities*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes, pp.51–70.

Moasun FY, Sottie AC (2014) Growing up with disabilities in Ghana: Experiences and perspectives. *Ghana Social Science Journal* 11(1): 53–77.

Kokutse F (2013) The pain of being mentally ill in Ghana. *Africa Review*. Available at: www.africareview.com/news/Pain-of-being-mentally-ill-in-Ghana/979180-1681566-12h2p2yz/index.html (accessed 13 January 2017).