

Children's Literature in African Languages: Swahili Books for Children in Kenya and Tanzania

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During the last decades there has been in Africa an increasing recognition of the value of children's literature, and of its central role in the educational system for developing instrumental abilities, and more in general a local reading culture, which would particularly benefit those writers working in African languages, who do not address international audiences and consequently have to rely on endogenous readerships. My paper will discuss the case of Kenya and Tanzania, exploring the production of contemporary Swahili children's books, and evidencing the potential benefits of the synergy between literature and education as a tool to promote new readerships in Eastern Africa.