

Curriculum Vitae (Dateline: July 10th 2008)

NAME: Peter Sumba Okayo Amuka
NATIONALITY: Kenyan
PERMANENT ADDRESS: Department of Literature, Moi University
P.O. Box 3900, Eldoret, Kenya
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EDUCATION

1. University

Ph.D. (Comparative Literature), University of California, Los Angeles, 1981-1986.

MA (Literature), University of Nairobi, 1975-1980.

BA (Literature), University of Nairobi, 1972-1975.

2. Secondary

Homa Bay High School, 1965-1970.

3. Primary

(a) Lala School, 1958-1959.

(b) Magare School, 1960-1961.

(c) Lala School, 1961-1964.

VISION

To be an accomplished Africanist in global scholarship and build and improve institution for such accomplishment in African scholarship.

FELLOWSHIPS

Rockefeller Fellow, Rice University, Centre For Cultural Studies. 1990/91.

EMPLOYMENT RECORD:

Moi University, 1987-to-date.

Professor of Literature, 2001-to-date.

Associate Professor of Literature, 1992-2001.

Senior Lecturer in Literature, 1987-1992 – Moi University.

Research Fellow in Literature, 1986-1987 – University of Nairobi, Institute of African Studies.

Junior Research Fellow in Literature, 1980-1986 – University of Nairobi, Institute of African Studies.

Graduate Assistant, 1979 – 1980, University of Nairobi, Institute of African Studies.

Visiting Professor, September 1999 – May 2000 – Maseno University College.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairman, Department of Literature, Moi University, 2006-to-date.

Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Moi University, 2001-2005.

Ag. Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Moi University, 1998.

Chairman, Department of Literature, Moi University, 1987-1998.

Hostel Warden, Moi University, 1988-1990; 1993-2002.

COURSES TAUGHT

1. Comparative Studies in Oral Literature.
2. Studies in Post-Colonial Discourses.
3. Oral Literature.
4. Creative Writing.
5. African Drama.
6. East African Literature.
7. European Drama.
8. European Fiction.
9. African Poetry.
10. African Fiction.
11. Caribbean Literature.
12. European Poetry.
13. Stylistics.
14. Kenyan Fiction and History.
15. African-American Literature.
16. Classical Theories.
17. Modern Theories.
18. English Composition.

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

I have supervised many Masters and Ph.D. Theses.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The Oral Narrative and the Woman's Environment: Examples From Kenya.

Oral Testimonies in Kenya.

Autobiography/Biography in Kenya.

Comparative Reading of Oral Literature.

PUBLICATIONS

A Articles, Chapters and Fiction

1. Amuka, P.S.O. (2008); "The Bull and Grass", A short Story in a Forthcoming Anthology. (Title of collection and pages available later in the year).
2. Amuka, P.S.O. (July 2008); "Fundamentalism and the Search for Human(e) Order". In *Daisaku Ikeda and the Voices of Peace from Africa* (Nairobi: Kenya Literature Bureau). In Press.
3. Amuka, P.S.O. and Bwonya, Jane (2006); "The Oral Narrative and the Woman's Environment: Selected Examples From Kenya". In *Our Landscapes, Our Narratives* (Nairobi:KOLA ed. Indangasi and Masumi), pp 65-72.
4. Amuka, P.S.O. (2005); "Marriage, Symbolism And The Courting That Never Ends". In *Egerton Journal*, Vol. V, No. 2, pp 1-26, Nakuru.
5. Amuka, P.S.O. (2000); "The Play of Deconstruction in the Speech of Africa: The Role of *Pakruok* and *Ngero* in Telling Culture in Dholuo". Chapter In *African Philosophy As Cultural Inquiry* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, eds. Karp and Masolo), pp. 89-104. (First version published as a chapter in *Reflections on Theories and Methods in Oral Literature* in Nairobi by KOLA in 1992, pp. 66-87).
6. Amuka, P.S.O. (2000); "Ikeda and Derbolav's Search for a New Humanity and Some Implications for Kenya". In *Daisaku Ikeda and Africa: Reflections by Kenyan Writers* (Nairobi: Nairobi University Press, ed. Indangasi and Masumi pp 64-67.
7. Amuka, P.S.O. (2000); "The 'Fiction' of the Colony and Post-Colony in Africa: Literature And the Immortality of Colonialism". A chapter in *Africa At The Beginning of the 21st Century* (Nairobi: Nairobi University Press, ed. G.P. Okoth). Pp 3-22.
8. Amuka, P.S.O. (1999); "Conversation, Sayings And Food: Some Verbal Sources of Material For Theatre." A chapter in *Selected International Drama For Education (IDEA) Conference papers* (Nairobi: Nairobi University Press, ed. Mumma, et al), pp 158-170.

9. Amuka, P.S.O. (1996); "The Romance of Nationhood: Kenya as Word and Desire". A chapter in *Ethnicity, Nationalism and Democracy in Africa* (A UNESCO-sponsored publication, ed. B.A. Ogot) pp 39-50.
- 10 Amuka, P.S.O. (1996); "Lullaby from the West". A short story in *Reversed Dreams* (Nairobi: Writers Association of Kenya, ed. Nana Tagoe) pp89-98.
- 11 Amuka, P.S.O. (1995); "An Oral Reading of the Written: The example of Masira ki Ndaki". A chapter in *Creative Use of Language in Kenya* (Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation ed. K.E. Senanu). pp. 106-114.
- 12 Amuka, P.S.O. (1994); "On Oral Literature and the Constituents of Knowledge". A chapter in *Understanding Oral Literature* (Nairobi: Nairobi University Press ed. A. Bukenya et al), pp. 1-15.
- 13 Amuka, P.S.O. (1992); "Late". A short story in *Soho Square v: An Anthology of New Writing from Africa* (London: Bloomsbury Publishers ed. Ogude and Kromberg), pp. 176-192.
- 14 Amuka, P.S.O. (1991); "Towards a Synthesis of the Oral and Written Text: A Reading of Two Dodo Songs". Article in *Passages*, No.1, Northwestern University. p1.
- 15 Amuka, P.S.O. (1990); "Oral Literature and Fiction". A chapter in *Themes in Kenyan History* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers; London: James Currey, ed. W. R. Ochien'g).
- 16 Amuka, P.S.O. (1976); "Wild Cats". A short story in *BUSARA*, Vol. 8 No. 1.

B. Feature Articles

- 17 Amuka, P.S.O. (2002); "Tribute To Literary Prowess of African Languages" in *Sunday Nation*, March 3.
- 18 Amuka, P.S.O. (1978); " Kanyabala's Polygamists" in *VIVA*, June, Vol. IV, No.5.
- 19 Amuka, P.S.O. (1976); "Taking Theatre to the People" in *Sunday Nation*, October 17.

C. Book Reviews

- 20 Amuka, P.S.O. (1987); David Maughan-Brown: *Land, Freedom and Fiction* (London: Zed Publishers 1985). In *Canadian Journal of African Studies*.
- 21 Amuka, P.S.O. (1985); S.K. Akivaga and B.A. Odaga: *A School Certificate Course*. (Nairobi: HED, 1982). In *Research in African Literatures* Vol. 16 No. 3, Fall.
- 22 Amuka, (1980); "The Black Collaborators". *Biographical Essays on Imperialism and Collaboration in Colonial Kenya*, B.E. Kipkorir (ed.) (Nairobi: KLB, 1980). In *The Weekly Review*, August.
- 23 Amuka, P.S.O. (1976); "Gallop Drama". E.N. Zirimu: *When the Hunchback Made Rain and Snoring Strangers*. (Nairobi: EAPH 1975). In *The Weekly Review*.
- 24 Amuka, P.S.O. (1975); "Abortive Attempt". E. Mittlehozer: *Corentyne Thunder* (London: HEB). *The Weekly Review*, September, 22.
- 25 Amuka, P.S.O. (1975); "Emotional Masturbation". E. Mittlehozer: *A Morning at the office*. (London: HEB, 1974). *The Weekly Review*, October.
- 26 Amuka, P.S.O. (1975); "Focus on Criticism". *African Literature Today*, No. 7, 1975 (Ed. E. Jones). *The Weekly Review*, October.
- 27 Amuka, P.S.O. (1975); "Seething Dialogue". J. Ruganda. *The Burdens* (Nairobi: OUP, 1972). *The Weekly Review*, December 22.

Selected Unpublished Papers

1. Theory, Freedom and Reading. Literature Students Association Seminar, Moi University, 1996.
2. Miserma and Migerma. Memorial Paper for H.O. Anyumba, University of Nairobi Workshop, 1993.
3. Some Uses of Sex-Relations in the Writing of Sembebe Ousmane. Seminar Paper, Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, 1979.
4. Creative Writing and Oral Literature: Ousmane, Soyinka and Aidoo. Seminar, IAS, 1980.

Selected Unpublished Fiction

1. My dear daughter without a head.2009,Novella.
2. Who Was My Father? 2008, A story.
3. Impedimenta. A novel. 2003-2005.
4. My Parent's Death My Wife's Joy, a story 2000.
5. Just Feel: a dialogic story, 1997.
6. Deadening the Body for Life. A short story, 1996.
7. A Song. A novella, 1993.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS

- 1998 Workshop on Review of Oral Testimonies Research, Nairobi, February.
- 1997 British Council Conference on Post-Colonial Literature, Nairobi, July.
- 1996 The second Kenya Ossrea Conference, Bongo Hotel, Kitale, July 25-28.
- 1996 Peer Review of Meeting on ABC of Gender Analysis, New Stanley Hotel, Nairobi, May.
- 1996 Workshop on Democracy and the Launching of *Reversed Dreams*, Nairobi, July.
- 1991 Kenya Oral Literature Association Conference on Theories and Methods in Oral Literature, Nairobi, June.
- 1991 British Council and Moi University Seminar on Creative Use of Language in Kenya, Main Campus, Moi University, Eldoret, August.
- 1983-86 Attended several seminars and workshops organized by the African Studies Association and African Literature Association in the United States of America.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Undergraduate (B.A., B.Ed.)

- 1992-95 Department of Literature, Kenyatta University.
- 1992 Department of Literature, Egerton University
- 1992-95 Department of Languages and Literature, Kikuyu Campus University of

- Nairobi.
1998-03 Department of Literature, Main Campus, University of Nairobi.
2001-to-date Department of Literature, Egerton University.

Postgraduate: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D).

- 1998 Oken'go Matiang'i: "The Treatment of The Theme of Women's Identity and Self-Definition In The Fictional Works of Emecheta, Ba and Head".
1997 D.H. Kiiru: "Women in Alex La Guma's Fiction" University of Nairobi.
1996 Nyambura Mpesha: "Children's Literature in Tanzania: A Literary Appreciation of its Growth and Development". Kenyatta University.

Master of Arts (MA)

- 1997 T.O. Otieno: "The Missing Links, a Novel". University of Nairobi.
1997 J. Jefwa: "Philosophical and Literary Eclecticism in Grace Ogot's Works", Kenyatta University.
1996 Mrs Horiuchi-Rijimer: "Gender Issues and Technique in Walker's 'The Color Purple' and Mariama Ba's 'So Long a Letter'. University of Nairobi.
1996 P. Ikonya: "Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye and the Quest for Freedom: A study of 'Coming to Birth', 'Song of Nyarloka and other Poems,' University of Nairobi.
1994 E.W. Okhoba: "The Style and Meaning of Abamarachi Children's Oral Poetry". Kenyatta University.
1994 A. Muktar: "Oral Poetry Among the Somalis of Kenya: Its Style and performance", Kenyatta University.
1994 F.M. Mwangi: "The Short Story as a Literary Response to South African Social and Political Realities", Kenyatta University.