

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name: Prof. Helen Oronga A. Mwanzi, PhD, Literature,** University of Nairobi, 1995; Associate Professor, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi.

### **Academic Background:**

PhD, Literature, University of Nairobi, 1995

MA, Literature, University of Nairobi, 1984

BA, Upper Second Division, with Education, University of Nairobi, 1972

### **Latest Research:**

- (i) “The Place of Lowly characters in Oral Literature: Hunchback, Toad and Skin-disease Stories in Luhya Oral Literature” published in The Nairobi Journal of Literature 2006
- (ii) “The role of indigenous vegetables and herbs in the Life of People with Depressed Immunity”-- in progress, 2006 Vicres Project: Inter-University Council of East Africa initiative, 2006
- (iii) “Children’s Literature: The Foundation of Values and Nationhood” on-going for The Nairobi Journal of Literature, 2006.
- (iv) “Oral Literature and the Environment: The Wood and Vegetable Gatherers in Kenyan Oral Literature”—Read at Kenya Oral Literature Conference in Kisumu, November, 2005.
- (v) “Widow, Widowing and Remarriage: Ritual and Reality among the Luhya of Kenya”, 2001

## **Publications:**

- (i) ) “Socializing the Young” in The Nairobi Journal of Literature. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2006.
- (ii) “Conjuring back the ecosystem for Posterity” in Our Landscapes, Our Narratives. Eds. H. Indangasi, E. Nyamasyo & P. Wasamba. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2006.
- (iii) “The Paradox of the Lowly”. The Nairobi Journal of Literature. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2005
- (iv) “Widowing and Remarriage”. East Africa in Transition. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2004
- (v) “Young People’s Ambition: A pupil’s Perception” in School Visitation: Association of Women for Research and Development (AAWORD) publication, 2003.
- (vi) “Transition from the Standpoint of Oral Literature” in East Africa in Transition. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2002.
- (vii) *Let the Factory Close* in Our Secret Lives. Nairobi: Phoenix Publishers, 1996—a story about endurance and Victory in a woman’s life in the family.
- (v) *Kalisanga and Kalimonje*—a Children’s story—in The River without Frogs. Phoenix Publishers, 1989.
- (vi) *Kiti and Titi*—a children’s story-- in The River without Frogs. Phoenix Publishers, 1989.
- (vii) *Lila’s Yellow Dress*—a children’s story—in Little Amu and Kobole. Oxford University Press, 1989.
- (viii) *Who Am I?—Termite*—a children’s poem-- in The River without Frogs, Phoenix Publishers, 1989.
- (ix) *Twasi*—a young people’s story—in The Stranger and Other Stories. Nairobi: Kenya Literature Bureau, 1996.
- (x) Integrated English: Pupil’s Book I. Jomo Kenyatta

Foundation, 1985

- (xi) Integrated English: Teacher's Guide Book I. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1985.
- (xii) Integrated English: Pupil's Book II. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1986.
- (xiii) Integrated English: Teacher's Guide Book II. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1986.
- (xiv) Integrated English: Pupil's Book III. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1987.
- (xv) Integrated English: Teacher's Guide Book III. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1987.
- (xvi) Integrated English: Pupil's Book IV. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1988.
- (xvii) Integrated English: Teacher's Guide Book IV. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 1989.
- (xviii) Integrated English: Syllabus for Forms I-IV. Nairobi: Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), 1988.

Note: Publications (x)- (xviii) are co-authored with seven other members of the Secondary English Panel.

**Unpublished Works:**

- (i) Effective English for Communication: Pupil's Book 6. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press—awaiting publication
- (ii) Effective English for Communication: Pupil's Book 7. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2004—awaiting publication.
- (ii) Effective English for Communication: Teacher's Book 7. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2004—awaiting publication.
- (iii) Effective English for Communication: Pupil's Book 8. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2005—awaiting

publication.

(iv) Effective English for Communication: Teacher's Book  
8. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2005—awaiting  
publication.

(v) Several poems and short stories for both children and  
adults; and essays

**PhD Supervision:** Joseph Muleka: Images of Girls in Bweya Oral Poetry, 2004-  
2007 completed.

**M.A. Supervision (Completed):**

Magu, Agnes, "Satire in the Novels of F. Oyono", 2006.

Angogo, Lydia, "The Novels of Wahome Mutahi", 2005

Omutiti, G. "Micere Mugo Poetry 2004"

**Teaching:** M.A. Theoretical Perspectives in African Literature  
Critical Perspectives in African Literature

**Undergraduate:** Language Use in Literature

Modern African Poetry

Theory of Children's Literature

Children's Literature: Texts and Sources

**Departmental Responsibilities:**

Departmental Representative on the Faculty Timetabling Committee

**Other University Responsibilities:**

Member of the University of Nairobi Gender Committee

Member of the University of Nairobi Board of Postgraduate Studies--

Senate Representative.

**Consultancies:**

(i) Consultant Creative writer for Materials for the Displaced families  
In Northern Kenya—Dadaab and other refugee camps

(ii) Adjudicator of Kenya Drama, Creative Cultural Dance,  
Dramatized Verse presentation and Dramatized Narrative, 1983-  
date.

(iii) Adjudicator of Kenya Music Festival: English Verse Speaking—

Set piece, Own Original Composition, and Public Speaking

- (iv) Curriculum Developer on the 8-4-4 Secondary English Panel; worked with the Team of 8 who produced the Syllabus For Secondary School English, all the Four Text Books-- Forms I-IV Integrated English, and a Teacher's Guide for each textbook: used in Secondary school in Kenya until 2005 and is still used as reference material by Secondary school teachers as well as college lecturers of English
- (v) Chief Examiner for 'A' Level General Paper—the final examination in the Secondary school cycle: 1980- 1989(the system of education requiring a strong 'A' Level Certificate for University entry ended in 1989); the examining bodies were East African Examinations council (up to 1980) and Kenya National Examinations Council 1981-1989.
- (vi) Assistant Chief Examiner for Literature in English 'O' Level Literature 1990-1995; examining body was Kenya National Examinations Council; this is a qualifying examination used to select students who satisfy university entry to pursue university degree courses
- (vii) Examiner of 'A' Level English Literature, Paper II: Plays; the examining bodies were East African Examinations Council and Cambridge School Certificate Examinations Board—1976-1978
- (viii) Examiner of 'O' Level English Grammar: Paper II; the examining bodies were the East African Examinations Council and Cambridge School Certificate Board—1975
- (ix) Examiner of 'O' Level Literature in English; the examining bodies were East African Examinations Council and Cambridge School Certificate Board—1974.