

## Call Me By My Name: Portrayal of Albinism in Kiswahili Literature

**Authors :** Elizabeth Godwin Mahenge

**Abstract :** This study seeks to investigate the portrayal of albinism in Swahili literature. People with albinism have faced many life-threatening challenges, from being hunted for their body parts of being assigned derogatory names that depict them as ghosts as or less than humans. Many studies have been conducted on the perception of people towards Persons with Albinism [PWA] worldwide. Findings showed there is negative perception or negative portrayal of PWA in different societies worldwide. These negative connotations raised hot debates around the world among different societies and associations of/for PWA. People with disability in different parts of the world started arguing the labeling and name calling same applied to persons with disability in Tanzania (albinism included). They went the same debate about name calling hence in 2010, the Tanzanian Parliament passed the bill on Persons with Disability Act which banned derogative names attached to disability in general and to albinism in particular. In Tanzanian societies, there have been a mixed feelings with regards to albinism. Some do have negative perceptions because of the killings with connection to superstitious believes, while in other societies are perceived positively as blessed children a family. From these two contradictory perceptions that exist in this society, the study seeks to find out how Swahili literature portrays albinism.

**Keywords :** albinism, portrayal, disability, Kiswahili literature

**Conference Title :** ICLLL 2023 : International Conference on Languages, Literature and Linguistics

**Conference Location :** Cape Town, South Africa

**Conference Dates :** November 06-07, 2023