

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

**USE OF REGISTER FOR THEMATIC AND AESTHETIC COMMUNICATION: A  
CASE STUDY IN MARY OKURUT'S *THE INVISIBLE WEEVIL* AND KINYANJUI  
KOMBANI'S *THE LAST VILLAINS OF MOLO*.**

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**A RESEARCH SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND OTHER  
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## Abstract

### Use of register for thematic and aesthetic communication in Mary Okurut's *The Invisible*

### *Weevil* and Kinyanjui Kombani's *The Last Villains of Molo*.

This study examines how the two selected novels (*Invisible Weevil* by Mary Okurut and *The Last Villains of Molo* by Kinyanjui Kombani) portray the influence of register in the identification of themes in a novel as well as addition of beauty in a text. The term 'register' is the main focus in this study. It should therefore not be confused with other terms that are commonly used in assessing the communications that exist between individuals in conversations, in a particular language. There are times that terms like dialect (a regional variety of a language) and idiolect (an individual's distinctive and unique use of language) are wrongly used to refer to the same thing. The term 'register' thus confines the study to the assessment of a language whose usage is influenced by the communicative purpose, social context and the standing of the user, as employed in the two selected texts. The Bakhtin Theory has influenced the analysis of language as used in the texts. The study has relied heavily on the idea of heterogism which looks at meaning as not just being produced by the larger content in a text but rather the individual utterances. The study picks particular utterances in dialogues among characters and assesses how they may be used to identify themes and aesthetic value in the texts. The Bakhtin's theory's proposition that the novel is a site for the dialogic interaction of multiple languages (could be of authorities, generations and social groups) and of speeches (say of narrators, characters and authors) each expressing a wide range of ideologies, helps in analysing the different registers that are used in the two selected novels and how the particular registers influence thematic interpretation and assessment of the texts' aesthetic value. The objective of this study is to investigate how the different registers used in dialogues in the two selected texts aid in identifying themes in the texts. The study also investigates how the use of different registers in the two texts influences the beauty of the texts, besides assessing dominant stylistic features used in the texts. The study has employed qualitative research in the form of observational design. In particular the kind observational design used is the content analysis. It assesses the current status of a phenomenon by observation. Content analysis involves the systematic qualitative description of the composition of the objects or materials of study. This is done by studying the existing documents such as books and magazines to determine factors that explain an existing phenomenon. This study has used the selected texts to determine whether register is a factor that influences themes and aesthetics in a novel.