

Where Is the Wisdom We Have Lost in Knowledge?

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ABSTRACT In this research paper the researchers highlight the need for an incorporation of the African cultural heritage in general and proverbs in particular for second language learning and teaching. This is in the light of the widespread trivialisation of African culture and knowledge systems which has resulted in an appalling degeneration of the cultural, social and spiritual fabric of the African people as a whole. This degeneration needs to be challenged through a revolutionalised academic engagement that harnesses the African cultural living heritage because the tenets of the African cultural systems and practices form the fundamentals of living with others and with nature in harmony. Folklore in general and proverbs, in particular, contain practical wisdom for instilling moral values and social skills as globalization, transculturalism and real-life experiences demand problem-solving that is based on the human condition. Thus academics need to consciously and consistently incorporate and illuminate the African heritage in their teaching in order to enable students to learn and think critically about the knowledge and the wisdom of the cultural practices of their communities.