



## **Post-modernism and the Swahili Novel:**

### **A reading of *Babu alipofufuka* and *Dunia yao* by Said Ahmed Mohamed**

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In my paper the interpretation of the latest novels by the Zanzibari writer Said Ahmed Mohamed will be related to the current critical debates around the interrelation between post-modernism and African literatures. Post-modernism, a broad category which refers to a wide range of literary discourses and practices disrupting rationality, unity and exclusivity, in the African context can be linked to the writer's aspiration to dismantle the realistic trend and its implicit optimistic view of national development, which characterized the emergence of African modern literatures after Independence. The idea of post-realism seems to apply also to a number of contemporary Swahili novels which are appearing since the 1990's, pervaded by innovative aesthetic features which disrupt the mainstream social realism. The aim of the paper will be to explore some of the new literary techniques employed by Said Ahmed Mohamed, and to relate them to the writer's changing perspectives on East-African society.