



Portrayals of the West in Postmodern Swahili Literature.

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This paper will discuss how postmodern Swahili novels portray different aspects of Western influence. The two novels I shall discuss are *Nagona* (1990) by Euphrase Kezilahabi and *Bina-Adamu!* (2002) by Kyallo Wadi Wamitila. I will inspect how the West – here referring the hegemonic powers of Western Europe and the USA – is portayed and try to understand why the author's choose to depict this “initiator of cosmic chaos” [Kezilahabi 1985: 3] in the way that they do. Alongside my analysis of portrayals of the West in these two novels, this paper will explore what post-colonial theory can contribute to an anlaysis of such literature in an African language. I will conclude that post-colonial theory is a flawed yet crucial step towards a model of analysis with the sufficient understanding of cultural context and language needed to analyse African language literatures. In examining *Nagona* and *Bina-adamu!* I will highlight the relevance of post-colonial theory as it attempts to sensitively register the full ramifications of colonialism on modern writers.