



“Time is a wall” : a representation of the obstacles of modernity

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This paper considers Ebrahim Hussein's title for his play 'Wakati Ukuta' (Time is a Wall) and gives a representation of the obstacles of the implementations of modernity. It exemplifies the idea that you cannot fight with time but instead have to embrace what comes with it. The conflicting relationship between tradition and modernity is a key part of this illustration. This paper looks at different parts of Kezilahabi's novel *Gamba la Nyoka* and Hussein's play *Wakati Ukuta* in which certain characters either accept or attempt to fight with time and the changes associated with modernity. In the literary depictions, individualism is a central theme which traverses a number of key aspects of modernity, namely extra-marital relationships, foreign behaviours, education and age/generational differences. The futility of the attempt to fight against time is prominently displayed in both texts scrutinized in this paper and so consequently concludes that modernity is inevitable and must be embraced.